



HAZARD COMMUNICATION

Introduction

OSHA's revised Hazard Communication standard HazCom 2012 is found in 29 CFR 1926.59 and 29 CFR 1910.1200

The regulation is more commonly known as "HazCom" or "The Right to Know Law". The standard requires chemicals manufacturers and importers to evaluate the potential hazards of chemicals in the workplace. Employers must ensure that the potential hazards and appropriate protective measures concerning those chemicals are communicated to employees. The HazCom 2012 aligns OSHA's existing HazCom standard with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). This update will provide a common and coherent approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets. You have the right to know and to understand the chemicals you are, or may be exposed to.



Hazardous Chemicals Written Program

The employer must have a written hazard communication program in place for its employees at each worksite. The program should provide employees with a blueprint of how the workplace will address the HazCom 2012 requirements for labels, SDS, and training. The written hazard communication program shall include:

- A list of the hazardous chemicals present at your site.
- How the SDS requirements are being met.
- How the labeling requirements will be met.
- Detailed information on training compliance.
- Methods used to inform the employee of the hazards of non-routine tasks.
- Methods used to inform other workers at your site of hazardous chemicals.

Employee Information, Training, and the Right-To-Know

Employees will need to be trained on the new label elements and SDS format by December 1, 2013. HazCom 2012 training must address pictograms, signal words, hazard statements, and precautionary statements. Employees must also be trained when they are given a new work assignment or whenever a new hazard is introduced into their work area.

Additionally training programs should provide employees with an explanation of the hazardous chemicals present in the work area, and the measures employees can take to protect themselves from these hazards, including specific procedures the employer has implemented to protect employees from exposure to hazardous chemicals.

- Training must also address the location and availability of a workplace's written Hazard Communication Program, SDS sheets, and hazardous chemical lists are located.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

The Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) 2012 requires that the chemical manufacturer, distributor, or importer provide Safety Data Sheets (SDS) (formerly MSDSs or Material Safety Data Sheets) for each hazardous chemical to downstream users.

The information contained in SDSs is largely the same as the MSDS except that the SDSs must be in a consistent, user-friendly format. OSHA requires that all Safety Data Sheets must include the following 16 sections that provide information about the chemical substance or mixture.

1. Identification (physical and chemical)
2. Hazardous identification
3. Composition/information on ingredients
4. First aid procedures
5. Fire-fighting measures
6. Accident release measures
7. Handling and storage
8. Exposure controls/personal protection
9. Physical and chemical properties
10. Stability and reactivity
11. Toxicology information
12. Ecological information
13. Disposal considerations
14. Transport information
15. Regulatory information
16. Other information, including date of preparation/revision

Sections 1 to 8 include general information about the chemical, identification, hazards, composition, safe handling practices, and emergency control measures. This information is helpful to those who need the information quickly. Sections 9 to 11 and 16 include other technical and scientific information. The SDS also must include Sections 12 to 15, but OSHA will not enforce the content of those sections because they concern issues handled by other agencies.

Copies of the Safety Data Sheets are to be maintained by the employer and must be readily accessible to employees at each job site. If paper copies are not on site, employees must have immediate access to SDS information through electronic means at all times. Employers must ensure there is an adequate backup system in place to provide employees access to SDS's in case of emergencies, power outages, equipment failures, and on-line delays.

Certain chemical products used in the workplace are considered “consumer products: and may not be subject to this program under the standard [Ref: 29 CFR 1910.1200 (b)(6)(ix)].

Providing your company's appropriate SDS's to other Contractors

Under the HazCom rule, the employer is required to have as part of their written program a system for providing appropriate SDS's to all other contractors working on their property or work site. It is recommended that documentation of any transmittals be retained.


LABELS AND OTHER FORMS OF WARNINGS

The chemical manufacturer, importer, or distributor shall ensure that each container of hazardous chemicals leaving the workplace is labeled, tagged or marked.

Where the chemical manufacturer or importer is required to label, tag or mark the following shall be provided.

1. Product identifier
2. Signal word
3. Hazard statement(s)
4. Pictogram(s)
5. Precautionary statements(s) and
6. Name, address, and telephone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer, or other responsible party

Sample label:

SAMPLE LABEL	
<p style="text-align: center;">PRODUCT IDENTIFIER</p> <p>CODE _____ Product Name _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION</p> <p>Company Name _____ Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____ Emergency Phone Number _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS</p> <p>Keep container tightly closed. Store in cool, well ventilated place that is locked. Keep away from heat/sparks/open flame. No smoking. Only use non-sparking tools. Use explosion-proof electrical equipment. Take precautionary measure against static discharge. Ground and bond container and receiving equipment. Do not breathe vapors. Wear Protective gloves. Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product. Wash hands thoroughly after handling. Dispose of in accordance with local, regional, national, international regulations as specified.</p> <p>In Case of Fire: use dry chemical (BC) or Carbon dioxide (CO₂) fire extinguisher to extinguish.</p> <p>First Aid If exposed call Poison Center. If on skin (on hair): Take off immediately any contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HAZARD PICTOGRAMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SIGNAL WORD Danger</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HAZARD STATEMENT</p> <p>Highly flammable liquid and vapor. May cause liver and kidney damage.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</p> <p>Directions for use</p> <p>_____ _____ _____</p> <p>Fill weight: _____ Lot Number _____</p> <p>Gross weight: _____ Fill Date: _____</p> <p>Expiration Date: _____</p>

HAZARD COMMUNICATION Test Questions

1. The Hazard Communication Standard is also known as “The Right-to-Know Law”?
 - a. True

 - b. False

2. A written Hazard Communication Program must be made available to all employees.
 - a. True

 - b. False

3. Storage containers of chemicals must be labeled with the contents and hazardous warning information.
 - a. True

 - b. False

4. Labels on containers must be in English.
 - a. True

 - b. False

5. Employees must be trained in the Hazard Communication policy upon employment and or initial work assignment.
 - a. True

 - b. False

6. Your employer must have an SDS sheet, or access to the SDS sheet information, for every chemical that poses a physical or health hazard at your work site.
 - a. True

 - b. False

7. Contractors working at your location are not allowed to have access to your SDS sheets.
 - a. True

 - b. False

1-T, 2-T, 3-T, 4-T, 5-T, 6-T, 7-F

Through the OSHA and American Pipeline Contractors Association (APCA) Alliance, APCA developed this Toolbox Talk for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. 02/2013

