

Hazard Communication Overview

Refer to sign-in sheet for attendees (note: a separate meeting should be held with all absent employees).

1. Overview:

OSHA requires all employers with hazardous chemicals in their workplaces to prepare and implement a written hazard communication program, and must ensure that all containers are labeled, employees are provided access to safety data sheets (SDS's), and an effective training program is conducted for all potentially exposed employees.

2. Definition of a Hazardous Chemical:

- Any chemical that presents a physical hazard or a health hazard.
- **Physical hazard** means a chemical for which there is scientifically valid evidence that it is a combustible liquid, a compressed gas, explosive, flammable, an organic peroxide, an oxidizer, pyrophoric, unstable (reactive or water-reactive).
- **Health hazard** means a chemical for which there is statistically significant evidence based on at least one study conducted in accordance with established scientific principles that acute or chronic health effects may occur in exposed employees. The term "health hazard" includes chemicals which are carcinogens, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, and neurotoxins, agents which act on the hematopoietic system (the blood-making organs), and agents which damage the lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes.

3. Employer Hazard Communication Program Requirements Overview:

- Develop and maintain an up-to-date written Hazard Communication Program.
- Maintain an up-to-date list of hazardous chemicals in the workplace.
- Develop and implement a system to ensure hazardous material containers, including intermediate containers are labeled with their contents and hazards.
- Maintain up-to-date safety data sheets (SDS's) for all hazardous chemicals in the workplace.
- Make hazardous chemical SDS's readily available to employees and emergency/medical services.
- Train employees on all components of the site's Hazard Communication program, including specific hazard training for the chemicals they work with.

4. Employee Hazard Communication Responsibilities Overview:

- Know what hazardous chemicals are in the workplace.
- Know and understand the hazards and safe guards for using hazardous chemicals in the workplace.
- Follow the handling and use requirements for hazardous chemicals, including PPE requirements, as specified by the manufacturer and any applicable employer work rules/procedures.
- Ensure hazardous chemical containers, original and intermediate use containers, are marked with the contents and hazard markings.
- Know where to find safety data sheets (SDS's).
- Report any incidents involving hazardous chemicals.

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5. Discussion:

- What hazardous chemicals are in the workplace? Where are the safety data sheets (SDS's) located?

6. Reminder:

- Safety is the responsibility of both management and employees!

Next Safety Meeting is scheduled for _____ and the topic will be _____.

Take Exam / Review Results

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