

Chemical Safety



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Steps to an Effective Hazard Communication Program

Hazardous chemicals are prevalent in our workplace and compliance with OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1200, is recommended to prevent employee injuries. This Program should include chemical safety data sheets (SDSs), labels on containers of hazardous chemicals; training of workers and a written program describing how the employer will meet the requirements of the Standard.

A hazardous chemical is classified by the manufacturer as a physical or health hazard that has one of the following dangerous effects: acute toxicity; skin corrosion or irritation; serious eye irritation or damage; skin sensitization; carcinogenicity; reproductive toxicity, specific organ toxicity; or respiratory/aspiration risk.

Steps to an Effective Hazard Communication Program:

- Step 1. Learn the Standard and identify responsible staff.
- Step 2. Prepare and implement a written Hazard Communication Program.
- Step 3. Ensure all containers are properly labeled.
- Step 4. Maintain Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for each hazardous chemical in the workplace and ensure they are readily accessible to employees.
- Step 5. Inform and train employees about hazardous chemicals in the workplace.
- Step 6. Evaluate and reassess your program.

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