

HAZCOM – Hazard Communication

According to the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), chemical exposure may cause or contribute to many serious health effects such as heart ailments; central nervous system, kidney and lung damage; sterility; cancer; burns; and rashes. Some chemicals may also be safety hazards and have the potential to cause fires and explosions or other serious accidents. Because of the potential for serious sickness and/or injury as a result of chemical exposures, OSHA issued the Hazard Communication Standard to ensure that employers and employees are informed properly of work hazards. We have highlighted the basic standards below:

FOR EMPLOYERS

When developing a Hazard Communication Programs for employees, employers should ensure that the following items are addressed:

- Storage and handling
- Storage of flammable liquids in locations at least 35 feet from any nearby ignition sources
- Storage of flammable liquids and corrosive materials in approved containers or storage cabinets
- Chemical-specific handling procedures for corrosive materials (acids and bases)
- Transportation, storage and handling of hazardous materials in accordance with federal, state and local regulations
- Chemical Inventory
- Container labeling and warning information
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's) & access to them
- Comprehensive training for employees for all the above, including required safety equipment & protective gear. Training should be offered to all new employees initially, and each time new chemical hazards are introduced to the worksite.

FOR EMPLOYEES

Employees working with hazardous materials should be aware of the following:

- Your employer is obligated to provide information and training to you on all the hazardous chemicals you will be working with.
- You have the right to review the Hazard Communication Program and Chemical List for your jobsite.
- You may request copies of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS'S) for any chemicals you will be using.
- It is YOUR personal responsibility to use the proper safety and protective equipment and procedures when working with hazardous chemicals.
- Before receiving any hazardous chemical, check to see that it is labeled properly and contains the associated MSDS. Do not accept any hazardous chemicals that do not contain proper labels or are missing the MSDS.
- For employees that speak languages other than English, labeling must presented in their language as well as English.

How this topic applies to this job: _____

Date: _____ Jobsite/Project #: _____
Supervisor/Foreman (print name): _____ Signature: _____

Attendees: Print Name/Signature (use back/additional sheets as necessary):

Name: _____ Signature: _____
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