HEALTH HAZARDS | Hazard Communication Awareness

IMPORTANT \rightarrow **OSHA Standard 1926.59** The requirements applicable to construction work under this section are identical to those set forth at 1910.1200. All 1910 General Industry standards referenced in this safety topic are also applicable to the construction industry.

Hazard Communication is a specific OSHA phrase that deals with the hazards of chemicals in the workplace.

HCS is the Hazard Communication Standard which is an OSHA standard with a goal to ensure employers and workers know about chemical hazards and how to protect themselves.

OSHA's Hazard Communication standard is important to workers because it enforces the idea that workers have a right to know about:

- ➤ What chemicals are in the areas you will be working in?
- What are the hazards of those chemicals?
- How to protect yourself from those hazards.



OSHA Standard 1910.1200 The purpose of this section is to ensure that the hazards of all chemicals produced or imported are classified, and that information concerning the classified hazards is transmitted to employers and employees. The requirements of this section are intended to be consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), Revision 3. The transmittal of information is to be accomplished by means of comprehensive hazard communication programs, which are to include container labeling and other forms of warning, safety data sheets and employee training.

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spill/Leak Procedure: Recovery and reuse rather than disposal, should be the ultimate goal of handling efforts. Us appropriate methods, showls, brooms, and vacuums to clean up the spill. If mixed with water, or likely to be mixed than yol (cold, disk area to contain spill. Reclaim if possible, After all visible traces have been removed, flush area with larg amounts of water. If spilled on the ground, contaminated soil should be removed and placed in proper containers for reclamation or disposal. Do not flush material to public sewer or waterway. Decontaminate all tools and equipment followin cleanup.

Disposal: Contact a licensed professional waste disposal service to dispose of this material. Dissolve or mix the materia with a combustible solvent and burn in a chemical incinerator equipped with an afterburner and scrubber. Offer surplus an non-recyclable solutions to a licensed disposal company

Notification: Any spill or release to navigable water must be reported immediately to the National Response Center

➤ Workers need to know what chemicals are in their workplace, especially if they have to use them as part of their job.

- ➤ An important part of the OSHA Standard on HCS is that chemical manufacturers and importers must develop a Safety Data Sheet or SDS for each hazardous chemical they produce or import.
- ➤ SDS's contain valuable information about the hazards of chemicals and how to protect yourself.
- An SDS must be kept for each chemical at the job site.
- ➤ The type of information that can be found on an SDS includes:
 - First-aid measures
 - Handling and storage
 - Personal protection
 - Fire-fighting measures

Sample Safety Data Sheet (SDS) (*2)

OSHA Standard 1910.1200(g)(8) The employer shall maintain in the workplace copies of the required safety data sheets for each hazardous chemical, and shall ensure that they are readily accessible during each work shift to employees when they are in their work area(s).

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2.

- Workers should be familiar with the potential hazards with any chemical that they use at work.
- ➤ Labels are an important part of making sure workers know the hazards and protective measures.
- All labels are required to have the following components:
 - Product identifier or name
 - Signal word
 - 3. Pictograms
 - 4. Hazard and precautionary statements
 - Supplier/Manufacturer identification

Sample OSHA & GHS Label:

AMMONIA

DANGER Toxic if ingested

Wash hands thoroughly after handling. Keep container tightly closed when not in use. Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flames. May explode when exposed to high heat. Use in an open area that is well-ventilated. Breathing in ammonia is irritating and corrosive. Wear protective gloves and safety goggles to prevent burns and irritation.

If swallowed: Immediately call Poison Control or doctor/physician. Drink water or mil to dilute ammonia.



See Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for further details regarding safe use of this product.

5.

ABC CHEMICALS 123 MAIN ST. AUSTIN, TX 72458 WWW-ABCHEM-WEB 800-123-4567

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- Never use chemicals in containers that are not properly labeled.
- Report to the manager or supervisor any containers that are found without proper labels.
- If the labels become damaged or removed notify the manager or supervisor immediately.

OSHA Standard 1910.1200(f)(6) Workplace labeling. ...the employer shall ensure that each container of hazardous chemicals in the workplace is labeled, tagged or marked...

Examples of un-labeled containers stored improperly. This creates a serious hazard for any individual who tries to use these chemicals. It also creates a risk if these chemicals could react if they make contact or spill.

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Remember these tips for HCS awareness:

- ➤ Workers must have knowledge and training about the types of chemicals that they work with before using them on the job.
- ➤ Workers need to know what chemicals are in their workplace, especially if they have to use them as part of their job.
- > SDS's contain valuable information about the hazards of chemicals and how to protect yourself.
- ➤ An SDS must be kept for each chemical at the job site.
- Never use chemicals in containers that are not properly labeled.
- ➤ Labels are an important part of making sure workers know the hazards and protective measures.

OSHA Standard 1910.1200(h) Employee information and training. Employers shall provide employees with effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment, and whenever a new chemical hazard the employees have not previously been trained about is introduced into their work area.



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Sample Safety Sign – www.mysafetysign.com (*3)

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