

Hazard Communication

The “Right To Know” Requirements



29 CFR
1910.1200

OSHA's Hazard Communication (HazCom) Standard is based on the concept that employees have both a need and a right to know the chemical hazards they may be exposed to in their work areas, and how they can protect themselves from those chemical hazards.

What are chemical hazards?

There are two general types of chemical hazards:

Physical hazard means a chemical that is classified as posing one of the following hazardous effects:

- explosive
- flammable (gases, aerosols, liquids or solids)
- oxidizer (liquid, solid or gas)
- self-reactive
- pyrophoric (liquid or solid)
- self-heating
- organic peroxide
- corrosive to metal
- gas under pressure
- emits flammable gas in contact with water

Health hazard means a chemical that is classified as posing one of the following hazardous effects:

- acute toxicity (any route of exposure)
- skin corrosion or irritation
- serious eye damage or eye irritation
- respiratory or skin sensitization
- germ cell mutagenicity
- carcinogenicity
- reproductive toxicity
- specific target organ toxicity (single or repeated exposure)
- aspiration hazard

A chemical can have both physical and health hazards.

What must employers do to protect employees?

- Keep a list of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Prepare and follow a written HazCom program
- Make sure all chemical containers are properly labeled
- Make sure safety data sheets (SDSs) are available to employees
- Provide hazard communication training to employees

What should hazard communication employee training cover?

Under the HazCom Standard, your employees have the right to training about:

- The HazCom Standard itself
- Operations in the workplace where hazardous chemicals are present
- The hazards of the chemicals in their work area
- How they can detect a release of those chemicals
- How they can get a copy of the written HazCom program
- Where SDSs are located and how they can access them
- The labels found on containers of hazardous chemicals



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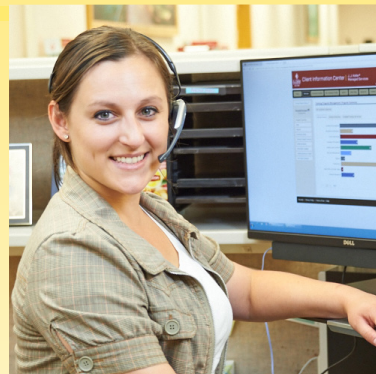
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