



Safety Training & Environmental Protection, LLC

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SUMMARY

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION'S expanded HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD, 1910.1200

Effective Dates:	March 19, 1982	Federal Register
	November 25, 1983	Final Rule-Manufacturing
	May 23, 1985	Distributors, Manuf.
	May 4, 1986	End Users
	September 23, 1987	All SIC's
	May 23, 1988	All Provisions
	January 23, 1989	Written Program

Federal Register, Volume 52, No. 163, August 24, 1987

This standard expands the scope of the November 25, 1983 Hazard Communication Standard. As of September 23, 1987, all chemical manufacturers, distributors, and importers must ensure that a material safety data sheet accompanies the initial shipment of hazardous chemicals to all non-manufacturing and manufacturing employers.

As of May 23, 1988 all employers in the non-manufacturing sector must comply with the requirements stated in this standard. The manufacturing community has had to comply with this standard since November 23, 1985.

(A) Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to ensure that all employees are informed of the potential hazards in the workplace. The information regarding potential chemical hazards must be transmitted from manufacturer to employer and from employer to employee. The employer must ensure that effective up to date information is available to those employees involved in potentially hazardous work areas.

(B) Scope and Application

This section requires that chemical manufacturers and distributors assess the hazards of the chemicals they sell or produce and transmit that information to the end user. This information must be conveyed through material safety data sheets and chemical labels.

This section requires that all employers provide their employees information about the hazardous chemicals to which they are exposed. Information should be transmitted by means of a written hazard communication program, labels and other forms of warning, material safety data sheets, and information and training.

There are several sections that must be addressed to comply with the requirements and intent of this standard. Below is a summary of each area that should be addressed either in the written program or in other pertinent documentation.

1. Hazard Determination

Chemical manufacturers and distributors are required to evaluate the hazards of the chemicals they produce. An employer is not required to complete an evaluation unless they chose not to use the information provided to them by the manufacturer. If an employer completes an evaluation of the hazards of a chemical, it should be documented.

2. Written Hazard Communication Program

This program should outline the mechanism to which the employer plans to transmit information regarding the hazards of chemicals on their property.



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3. Labels and Other Forms of Warning

The chemical manufacturer, importer, or distributor shall ensure that each container has proper chemical label information. If secondary containers are used throughout the property, it is the responsibility of the employer to ensure that these containers are identified with the name and proper hazard warning information. These secondary containers may be labeled or tagged.

4. Material Safety Data Sheets

Material safety data sheets must be available for each hazardous chemical found on the property. These MSDS's must always be accessible to any employee wishing to read or copy them.

5. Employee Information and Training

All employees working with or around hazardous chemicals must be trained as to the potential adverse effects of these materials. The employees shall be informed of the employer's Hazard Communication Program, the Hazard Communication Standard, and locations of the MSDS's. Employees must be able to assess potential hazards associated with the use of chemicals.

There is no specific requirement for retraining of employees. Yet, it is quite clear that OSHA expects all employees to be able to determine what hazards they are working with and how they can protect themselves from these hazards. To accomplish this effectively, on-going training is a necessity.

6. Non-Routine Tasks

Before an employee performing a job task that is not the normal duty of the employee, that may pose a health or safety threat, the employee needs to be provided with adequate training and information. Cleaning tanks, confined space, and chemical emergency releases are just some tasks that may require additional training before the employee can properly perform the job.

7. Medical access

All employees are entitled to review their own medical records. Because MSDS's may be used as medical documents, it is important to emphasize to the employee the availability of medical records according to OSHA's 1910.20 regulation.