

Hazard Communication Standard

Identifies categories of physical hazards: Flammables, Explosives, Reactives, Corrosives, Oxidizers, Gases under pressure

August Vivid Courses:

All:
Hazard Communication

Hazard communication programs should consist of three key areas:

Chemical Inventories and Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

- Updated inventory of the hazardous chemicals present at the workplace.
- Each hazardous chemical must have a Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- Safety Data Sheets must contain required information and be easily understandable and accessible.

Labels and Warnings

- Identify chemicals and corresponding hazards through labels and warning information.

Hazard Communication Training

- Reinforces safety practices through a hazard communication training program.
- Informs employees of the hazards of non-routine tasks.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

The best source of information about a hazardous chemical is the SDS, a technical bulletin of the chemical's hazards. OSHA requires the information to be consistent between manufacturers. Chemical manufacturers and distributors are required by federal law to furnish SDSs for hazardous products and OSHA requires employers to make them easily available to workers.

Precautions for safe handling of hazardous chemicals include general hygiene, such as no eating and drinking in the work areas. Conditions for safe storage include best practices such as ventilation needs, storage room designs and packaging requirements.

Workers must always read the SDS before working with any new chemical. OSHA requires that SDSs be readily available during all work shifts, to every employee. Your facility may keep SDS binders in a central location, or maintain electronic SDSs and provide access through computer terminals. Safety professionals should know where SDSs are located and make this location plain to the workforce.

The Hazard Communication Standard requires pictograms on manufacturer and supplier labels of chemical containers to warn of potential hazards of exposure. The pictograms are globally harmonized symbols and represent a distinct hazard. In addition to the original manufacturers' label, employers may use in-house labels, sometimes referred to as secondary labels. These labels must meet the Hazard Communication Standard requirements.

Source: <https://vividlearningsystems.com/courses/osha/hazcom-ghs>