



MJD & ASSOCIATES, INC., -LOSS CONTROL CONSULTANTS-

Monthly Safety Topic

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Changes to Chemical Safety



The Hazard Communication Standard, often called the “Right-to-Know” law is based on a simple idea that you as an employee have both a right and a need to know:

- What chemicals you are exposed to,
- The hazards of working with those chemicals, and
- What steps you can take to protect yourself and those you work with.

Most chemicals used in the workplace have some hazard potential and so are covered by the rule.

Employers with hazardous chemicals in their workplaces must:

- Implement a written Hazard Communication Program.
- Ensure that all containers are labeled.
- Provide employee’s access to SDSs (formally known as MSDSs).

- Conduct effective training for potentially exposed employees.

OSHA has said the revised HazCom standard now gives employees not only the “right-to-know” but also the “right-to-understand”.

This new system, known as the *Globally Harmonized System (GHS)* will see changes in:

- How chemical hazards are “classified”.
- The look and content of container labels.
- The look and content of Safety Data Sheets (SDSs).
- HazCom information and training.

One of the big changes will involve using pictograms to convey specific information about hazards of a chemical.



More information will be provided as we move forward with these changes.

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