

## Hazard Communication Standard

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7/01/07

The OSHA standard for Hazard Communication, Title 29 CFR 1910.1200 continues to be the most frequently cited OSHA standard for general industry. Approximately 8.5 percent of all violations are from the Hazard Communication Standard. Failure to develop and maintain a written program is by far the most pervasive type of this standard violation.

### Overview of Standard

This standard addresses the hazards of chemicals, both chemicals produced in the workplace and those imported into the workplace. It also governs the communication of those hazards to workers. The employees have both a need and right to know the hazards and identities of the chemicals they are exposed to when working.

### Top 5 Sections of Standard Cited by OSHA

- Failure to develop and maintain a written program - 1910.1200 (e) (1)
- Failure to maintain training - 1910.1200 (h) (1)
- Failure to have a material safety data sheet for each hazardous chemical - 1910.12000 (g) (1)
- Lack of employee training - 190.1200 (h)
- Failure to label each container with the identity of the hazardous chemical within - 1910.1200 (f) (5) (i)

### Failure to develop and maintain a written program

Employers are required to develop, implement, and maintain at each workplace, a written hazard communication program which at least describes how the criteria specified in paragraphs (f), (g), and (h) of the standard for labels and other forms of warning, material safety data sheets, and employee information and training will be met. Refer to the standard for complete requirements for a written program. A model program is available in the GAWDA OSHA Manual, Section 17.

### Failure to maintain training

Employers are required to 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 physical or health hazard the employees have not previously been trained about is introduced into their work area. Information and training may be designed to cover categories of hazards (e.g., flammability, carcinogenicity) or specific chemicals. Chemical-specific information must always be available through labels and material safety data sheets.

### Failure to have a material safety data sheet for each hazardous chemical

Chemical manufacturers and importers must obtain or develop a material safety data sheet for each hazardous chemical they produce or import. Employers shall have a material safety data sheet in the workplace for each hazardous chemical. Employees must have access to the Material Safety Data Sheets.

### Lack of employee training

The lack of employee training citations may include any or all of the training requirements listed under 1910.1200 (h) (1) through (h) (3).

1910.1200 (h)

"Employee information and training."

1910.1200(h)(1)

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1910.1200(h)(2)

"Information." Employees shall be informed of:

1910.1200(h)(2)(i)

The requirements of this section;

1910.1200(h)(2)(ii)

Any operations in their work area where hazardous chemicals are present; and,

1910.1200(h)(2)(iii)

The location and availability of the written hazard communication program, including the required list(s) of hazardous chemicals, and material safety data sheets required by this section.

1910.1200(h)(3)

"Training." Employee training shall include at least:

1910.1200(h)(3)(i)

Methods and observations that may be used to detect the presence or release of a hazardous chemical in the work area (such as monitoring conducted by the employer, continuous monitoring devices, visual appearance or odor of hazardous chemicals when being released, etc.);

1910.1200(h)(3)(ii)

The physical and health hazards of the chemicals in the work area;

1910.1200(h)(3)(iii)

The measures employees can take to protect themselves from these hazards, including specific procedures the employer has implemented to protect employees from exposure to hazardous chemicals, such as appropriate work practices, emergency procedures, and personal protective equipment to be used; and,

1910.1200(h)(3)(iv)

The details of the hazard communication program developed by the employer, including an explanation of the labeling system and the material safety data sheet, and how employees can obtain and use the appropriate hazard information.

**Failure to label each container with the identity of the hazardous chemical within**

The employer must ensure that each container of hazardous chemicals in the workplace is labeled, tagged or marked with the identity of the hazardous chemical(s) contained therein.