

i FACT SHEET

Hazard Communication and the Globally Harmonized System



Following federal OSHA's lead, Oregon OSHA revised its Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) for general industry to align with the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of classification and labeling of chemicals.

The key changes in the HCS affect both chemical suppliers (manufacturers, importers, and distributors) and employers whose employees may be exposed to hazardous chemicals.

Written hazard communication program:

There were no significant changes to the requirements for a written hazard communication program; however, the format for safety data sheets (previously known as material safety data sheets) and the elements required on product labels, which provide information about workplace chemical hazards covered in the written program, were changed in 2016.

- **Safety data sheets:** Suppliers must prepare safety data sheets for their products that follow a standardized 16-section format in conveying information about a hazardous chemical's health effects and physical and chemical characteristics.
- **Labels:** Suppliers must develop product labels that include signal words, pictograms, hazard statements, and precautionary statements for chemicals based

on their hazard classification and category. Employers must ensure that employees understand the meaning of each of these label elements.

It remains the employer's responsibility to develop and implement a written hazard communication program, which includes a list of hazardous chemicals known to be present, container labels, safety data sheets, and employee information and training. Safety data sheets must be immediately available to employees.

Information and training: Employers must continue to provide employees with effective information and training on the hazardous chemicals they use or are exposed to in the workplace at the time of their initial



assignment and whenever a new hazard is introduced. Requirements include training on the meaning of the label elements, the safety data sheet format, and any physical and/or health hazards. Employers must also update their hazard communication programs and workplace labeling as new hazard information becomes available.

Oregon's Hazard Communication Standards:

- Hazard Communication, general industry – Division 2/Z, 1910.1200.
- Hazard Communication, construction – Division 3/D, 1926.59 (refers back to 1910.1200).
- Hazard Communication, agriculture – Division 4/Z, [437-004-9800](tel:437-004-9800).

Resources

- 📄 [Federal OSHA's Hazard Communication page](#) (includes links to training resources about SDS, pictograms, and other label elements)
- 📄 [Oregon OSHA's Hazard Communication topic page](#)



Visit Oregon OSHA

Workers

Your employer cannot retaliate against you for reporting a workplace health or safety concern or violation. For more information about your rights, visit the Oregon OSHA website.



The Technical Section of Oregon OSHA produced this fact sheet to highlight health and safety programs and rules. The information is intended to explain the rules and provide best practices to employers.