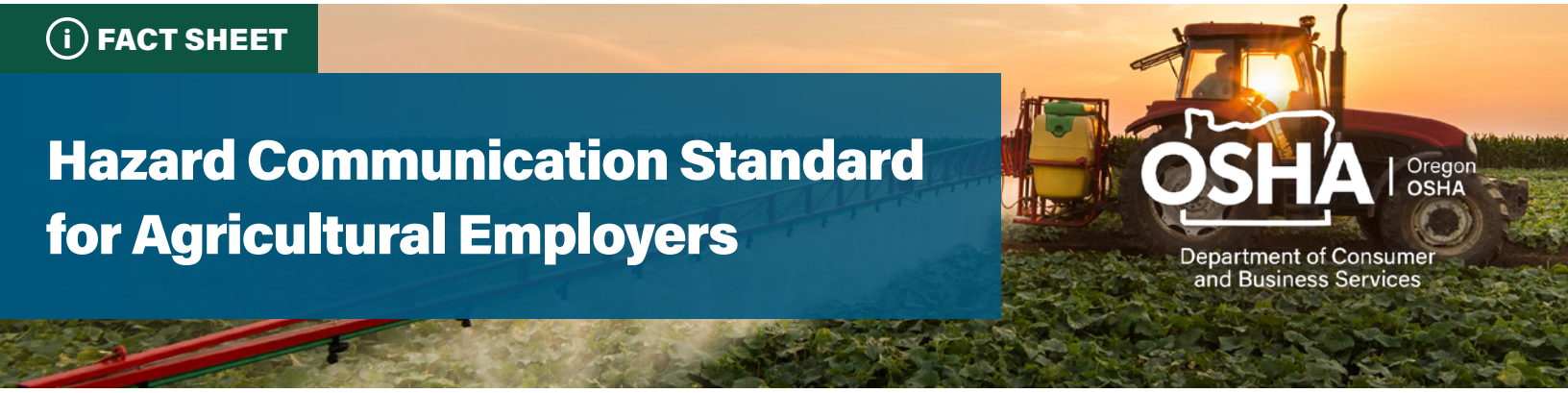
FACT SHEET

Hazard Communication Standard for Agricultural Employers



Agricultural employers have a responsibility to communicate to workers the hazards of the chemicals used in their workplace, as per OAR 437-004-9800.

The requirements were revised in 2014 to align with the Federal Hazard Communication Standard and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

This information must be provided through a comprehensive hazard communication program — including container labels, safety data sheets (SDS), and employee training.

The rule states: *Give employees effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area in new employees' initial hazard communication training, and when a new physical or health hazard is introduced into their work area.*

Training information must cover:

A review of safety data sheets (SDS)

The review should include the information found in each of the 16 standardized SDS sections, such as first aid measures, safe handling of the chemical, and proper methods of containment. Likewise, review the location and availability of all SDS in your workplace.

OSHA | Oregon OSHA
Department of Consumer and Business Services

Salem Central Office
350 Winter St. NE
Salem, OR 97301-3882

Phone: 503-378-3272
Toll-free: 800-922-2689
Fax: 503-947-7461

The six required label elements for hazardous chemicals:

1. Product identifier

This can be the chemical name, code number, or batch number. The manufacturer, importer, or distributor can decide the appropriate product identifier. The same product identifier must be on the label and in section 1 of the SDS to allow employees to cross-reference the information.

2. Signal words

These indicate the severity of a hazard. There are only two signal words: "DANGER" and "WARNING."

There can be only one signal word on the label; for multiple hazards, only the more severe signal word is printed on the label.

3. Hazard statement(s)

These describe the degree of the hazard, and are specific to the hazard classification categories.

Chemical users should always see the same statement for the same hazard, no matter what the chemical is or who produces it. All of the applicable hazard statements must appear on the label, though they may be combined to improve readability.

4. Supplier identification

This includes the name, address, and emergency phone number of the chemical manufacturer, distributor, importer, or other responsible person.

5. Precautionary statement(s)

These are phrases that describe measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a hazardous chemical or improper storage or handling. These may include first-aid instructions and what to do in case of fire.

6. Pictogram(s)

OSHA's nine standard pictograms are red diamond-shaped with black hazard symbols:

Corrosive

Environmental hazard

Explosive

Harmful

Material under pressure

Flammable

Hazardous to health

Oxidizing

Toxic

The labels can list supplemental information as well.

This is the typical look of a label in compliance:

SAMPLE LABEL

CODE _____

Product Name _____

Product Identifier

Company Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State_____

Postal Code _____Country_____

Emergency Phone Number _____

Supplier Identification

Hazard Pictograms

Signal word

Danger

Keep container tightly closed.
Store in cool, well ventilated place that is locked.
Keep away from heat/sparks/open flame.
No smoking.
Only use non-sparking tools.
Use explosion-proof electrical equipment.
Take precautionary measures against static discharge.
Ground and bond container and receiving equipment.
Do not breathe vapors.
Wear protective gloves.
Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.
Wash hands thoroughly after handling.
Dispose of in accordance with local, regional, national, international regulations as specified.

In Case of Fire: Use extinguishing measures that are appropriate to local circumstances and the surrounding environment.

First Aid
If exposed call Poison Center.
If on skin (or hair): Take off immediately any contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water.

Precautionary Statements

Highly flammable liquid and vapor.
May cause liver and kidney damage.

Hazard Statements

Supplemental Information

Directions for use

_____

_____

_____

Fill weight:_____ Lot Number:_____

Gross weight: _____ Fill Date:_____

Expiration Date: _____

Note: Not all chemical labels are required to meet these requirements. For example, some pesticide product labels regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency are exempt, as are products regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

More about pictograms and labels.

Procedures protecting employees

Specify any procedures implemented to protect employees from exposure to hazardous chemicals, such as personal protective equipment used, and appropriate work practices. Likewise, note any methods used to detect the presence or release of a hazardous chemical in the work area, such as alarm systems.

A review of printed materials

Agricultural employers must give all their employees a copy of Oregon OSHA publication #1951, "Safe Practices When Working Around Hazardous Agricultural Chemicals." Other employers are encouraged to do so.

Resources

- Oregon OSHA's Hazard Communication Topic page
- Federal OSHA's Hazard Communication aligned with GHS 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.