

June 16, 1998

Laura Spirlin, Safety Program Manager  
Fred Meyer Stores  
P.O. Box 42121  
Portland, OR 97242-0121

Dear Ms. Spirlin:

This letter is in reference to your May 5, 1998 letter requesting a letter of interpretation on the 1910.1200 Hazard Communication (HAZCOM) standard. In your letter you ask for clarification of the requirements contained in paragraph 1910.1200 (g)(7)(v).

The standard requires retail distributors selling hazardous chemicals to employers having a commercial account to provide a material safety data sheet to employers upon request. They are also required to post a sign or otherwise inform employers that a material safety data sheet is available.

If an employer without a commercial account purchases a hazardous chemical from a retail distributor, the retail distributor is required to provide the employer, upon request, with the name, address, and telephone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer, or distributor where a material safety data sheet can be obtained.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or any other occupational safety and health issues, please contact Rodney Boast at ext. 503-378-3272. You are also invited to see the OR-OSHA pages on the Internet.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager  
Standards & Technical Resources Section  
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division