

Training Requirements for OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard

To help members comply with these new requirements, SEAA member LPR Construction has graciously agreed to share its GHS (Globally Harmonized System) video, which is available in the Members section of the SEAA website. You can meet the OSHA requirements by showing your employees this video, then documenting the training with a signed attendance form or a company certification card. The video is also available to non-members for a fee. Call the SEAA office at 336.294.8880 for information and cost.



To better protect workers from hazardous chemicals, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has revised its Hazard Communication Standard, aligning it with the United Nations' global chemical labeling system. The new standard, once implemented, will prevent an estimated 43 deaths and result in an estimated \$475.2 million in enhanced productivity for U.S. businesses each year.

"Exposure to hazardous chemicals is one of the most serious dangers facing American workers today," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "Revising OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard will improve the quality, consistency and clarity of hazard information that workers receive, making it safer for workers to do their jobs and easier for employers to stay

competitive in the global marketplace."

The revised Hazard Communication Standard is being phased in and will be fully implemented in 2016. Following are specific requirements and phase-in dates to help employers comply:

December 1, 2013—Train employees on new label elements and SDS format.

June 1, 2015—Comply with all modified provisions of this final rule.

December 1, 2015—Final deadline for distributors to ship products labeled under the old system.

The SEAA ENews Newsletter



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June 1, 2015—Update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication program, as necessary, and provide additional training for employees on newly identified physical or health hazards.

During the transition period to the effective completion dates noted in the standard, chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers may comply with either 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1910.1200 (the final standard), the current standard or both.

This revised rule will benefit workers by reducing confusion about chemical hazards in the workplace, facilitating safety training and improving understanding of hazards, especially for low literacy workers. OSHA's standard will classify chemicals according to their health and physical hazards, and establish consistent labels and safety data sheets for all chemicals made in the United States and imported from abroad.

The revised standard also is expected to prevent an estimated 585 injuries and illnesses annually. It will reduce trade barriers and result in estimated annualized benefits in productivity improvements for American businesses that regularly handle, store and use hazardous chemicals, as well as cost savings of \$32.2 million for American businesses that periodically update safety data sheets and labels for chemicals covered under the standard.



"OSHA's 1983 Hazard Communication Standard gave workers the right to know. As one participant expressed during our rulemaking process, this update will give them the right to understand, as well," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels.

The final rule revising the standard is available at <http://s.dol.gov/P1>*

Further information for workers, employers and downstream users of hazardous chemicals can be reviewed at OSHA's Hazard Communication Safety and Health topics at

<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>, which includes links to OSHA's revised Hazard Communication Standard, Questions and Answers, OSHA fact sheet and Quick Cards.

Pictograms of the various hazards are also

available for download to use in training. [<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/pictograms/index.html>]

The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) has downloadable training materials on their website [<http://www.cpwr.com/training-hazardcommunication.html>].

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