



OE(3)- 2012-04

April 2012

OSHA's Revised Hazard Communication Standard

OVERVIEW

On March 26, 2012, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a final rule that updates its 25-year-old title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1910.1200, *Hazard Communication Standard* (HCS). The revised standard is consistent with the United Nations project's Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). Adopting this international system will improve the quality, consistency, and clarity of hazard information for workers. The revised standard goes into effect on May 25, 2012, with future deadlines for training workers and for full implementation.

This update to HCS will provide a common and coherent approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets. It requires training of workers to enable them to understand the new labeling and safety data sheets using GHS.

In addition, HCS provides new criteria for classification of health and physical hazards and mixtures of chemicals. It also revises the hazard communication sections of substance specific and construction industry standards so that all these standards are consistent.

REQUIREMENTS

Department of Energy (DOE) contractors must comply with OSHA regulations per 10 CFR 851, *Worker Safety and Health Program*, and DOE Federal offices must comply per DOE Order 440.1B, *Worker Protection Program for DOE (including National Nuclear Security*

Administration) Federal Workers. Key implementation dates are:

- (1) Employers must train workers on the new label elements and safety data sheets format by December 1, 2013.
- (2) Employers must update any alternative workplace labeling, update their hazard communication program, and provide additional worker training for newly identified physical or health hazards no later than June 1, 2016.

IMPACT

Major revisions to HCS:

- **Hazard classification:** Provides specific criteria for classification of health and physical hazards, as well as classification of mixtures of chemicals.
- **Labels:** Chemical manufacturers and importers will be required to provide a label that includes a harmonized signal word, pictogram, and hazard statement for each hazard class and category. Precautionary statements must also be provided.
- **Safety Data Sheets:** Will now have a specified 16-section format.
- **Information and training:** Employers are required to train workers on the new labels, elements, and safety data sheets format to facilitate recognition and understanding.

FURTHER INFORMATION

HSS HazCom Web site:

<http://www.hss.doe.gov/HealthSafety/WSHP/hcs.html/>

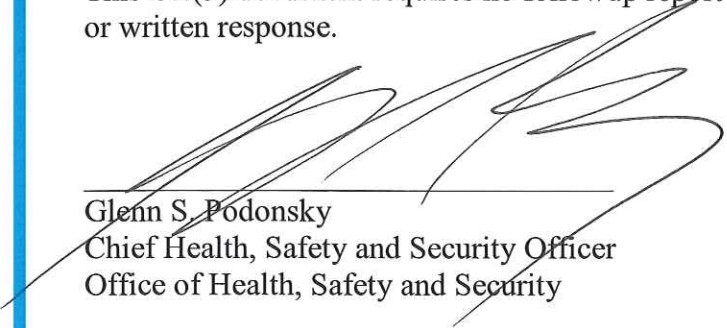


OSHA Web site:

<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>

Questions regarding this Operating Experience Level 3, OE(3), report can be directed to Dr. Bill McArthur at (301) 903-9674 or via e-mail: **Bill.McArthur@hq.doe.gov**.

This OE(3) document requires no followup report or written response.



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