

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

Protecting Your Health and Safety

Hazard Communication, or "HazCom," is the best way for you to find out about the danger of exposure to chemicals in your workplace. It lets you know how to protect yourself and others from these hazards.

We Need HazCom

Your health and safety, and your coworkers', depends on your understanding of the information your employer provides about handling chemicals. HazCom can help you prevent disabling injuries, serious illness, even death due to explosions, fires, other accidents, or overexposure to chemicals.

If you don't work in a chemical or manufacturing company, you may think that you are not at risk. But, your exposure to chemicals such as cleaning solvents, pesticides, gasoline, even toner in your office copier can be harmful if the chemicals are mishandled.

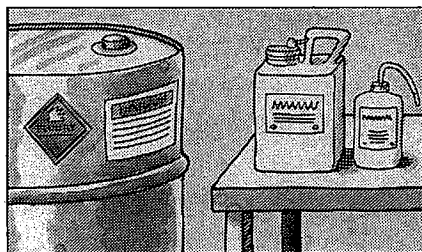
Attention to your company's HazCom program is always important. A manufacturer may change the formula of a chemical you've used before, or you may start working with a new chemical.

The HazCom Standard

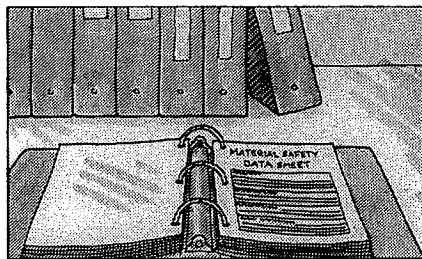
The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) established the HazCom Standard to protect the health and safety of employees. The HazCom Standard ensures your right to know about potential dangers by requiring employers to develop and explain the company's written HazCom program.

Three Important Aspects

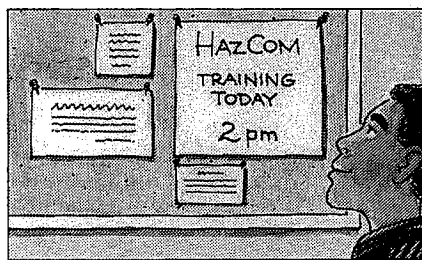
The most important elements of any company's HazCom program are:



① Warning labels on containers



② Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)



③ Employee training on the proper handling, usage, storage, and transportation of chemicals.

Your Company's Program

Your supervisor, or the company's HazCom contact, can give you

details on your company's program. Each company's approach is different, but most programs let you know such things as:

- When and how your next training will take place;
- What MSDSs tell you and where they are located;
- The names of hazardous chemicals in each work area;
- How to obtain a written copy of your company's own HazCom Program and of the official OSHA HazCom Standard;
- How site evaluations will be performed;
- Which protective measures and equipment are required or suggested for each chemical;
- How outside contractors will be trained;
- Special procedures for occasional hazards and unlabeled pipes;
- Results of chemical manufacturers' reviews of scientific studies on each chemical.

Partners in Protection

You and your employer are partners in protecting you against chemical hazards. Your responsibilities begin with reading carefully the important information on all labels, MSDSs, and training materials which your employer gives you. If you don't understand something, ask your supervisor to explain it.

Your health and safety in the future may depend on your following the correct procedure now. 