**Goals: This safety session should teach employees to:**

- Recognize their right to know about chemical hazards and protections.
- Use their right to know to work safely with chemicals.

**Applicable Regulations: 29 CFR 1910.1200****1. You Have a Legal Right to Know About Chemical Hazards and Protections**

OSHA's **Hazard Communication Standard (or HAZCOM)** requires that everyone who works with a hazardous chemical has the **right to know** about its hazards and how to protect against those hazards—and the responsibility to use that knowledge to work safely.

**2. Chemical Manufacturers Identify Hazards and Key Precautions**

Manufacturers must:

- Determine the physical and health hazards of their products.
- Identify those hazards and key safety precautions on chemical container labels and material safety data sheets (MSDSs).

**3. Employers Inform Employees About Chemical Hazards and Precautions**

Employers must:

- Develop a **written hazard communication program**, including a list of hazardous chemicals used or stored in the facility.
- Train employees to identify chemical hazards and to use information and procedures to reduce the risks.
- Assure that all chemicals have **proper labels and complete, easily available MSDSs**.

**4. Chemicals May Present Physical Hazards**

They may catch fire easily; suddenly release pressure and explode; or react when exposed to heat, air, water, or certain other chemicals by burning, exploding, or releasing dangerous vapors.

**5. Chemicals May Have Health Hazards**

- **Acute** health problems develop quickly after exposure (e.g., corrosive skin burns).
- **Chronic** health problems develop over time, often after many exposures (e.g., cancer from inhaling a toxic chemical).

Exposure to health hazards can occur in three ways:

- **Skin or eye contact**, which can cause burns, rashes, or even blindness
- **Inhaling, or breathing in**, chemical vapors and fumes, which can cause dizziness, nausea, lung damage, unconsciousness, or even death
- **Swallowing** (including eating or smoking after handling chemicals without first washing), which can cause poisoning or damage to internal organs

**6. Container Labels and MSDSs Identify Chemical Hazards**

You must read them carefully before starting any job involving a chemical.


- Labels give a brief summary of hazards.
  - Never use a chemical if its label is missing or too damaged to read.
- MSDSs detail a chemical's hazards and signs of exposure, situations that make the chemical more dangerous, and the procedures and equipment to use to reduce risk.

**7. Container Labels and MSDSs Describe Safety Precautions and Instructions**

Their safety information may include:

- **Handling and storage requirements** (e.g., ventilation, avoiding heat exposure)
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE)** to wear when using the chemical
- **Signs and symptoms of exposure** that could cause health problems
- **How to handle spills, fires,** and other emergencies involving the chemical

**Discussion Points:**

-  – Use a container label, MSDS, and your facility's chemicals list to illustrate the session.
- Ask participants which chemicals they use for which they check labels and MSDSs before starting a job.

**Conclusion: Use Your Right to Know About Chemical Hazards  
and Protections**

Chemicals can be both useful and hazardous. Understand the risks and use your training and available information to protect yourself and others on the job.

**Test Your Knowledge**

Have your employees take the quiz on hazard communication. By testing their knowledge, you can judge their ability to understand chemical hazards and protections and whether they need to review this important topic again soon.



## **La Norma de Comunicación de Riesgos de productos Químicos de OSHA**

**(Administración de Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo)**

**Le Da DERECHO A SABER los Riesgos que  
Presentan Químicos en su Lugar de Trabajo  
y Cómo Puede Protegerse de Ellos**

### **Los fabricantes de productos químicos identifican los riesgos de cada producto y los explican en:**

- La etiqueta del contenedor
- La hoja de datos de seguridad de materiales(MSDS)

**¡Protéjase de los riesgos  
químicos! Use su derecho  
a ser informado.**

### **El plan de comunicación de Riesgos y el entrenamiento proporcionado por su empleador le informa sobre:**

- Riesgos físicos y de salud que presentan los productos químicos que usted usa o maneja en su trabajo
- Cómo usar las etiquetas y las MSDS para identificar los riesgos y cómo protegerse de ellos
- Carteles y síntomas de la exposición a productos químicos
- Equipos y procedimientos que usted puede usar para trabajar en forma segura con productos químicos



# OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard

Gives You the RIGHT TO KNOW  
About the Hazards of Chemicals in Your  
Workplace and How You Can Protect  
Yourself

## Chemical manufacturers identify each chemical's hazards and explain them on:

- A container label
- A material safety data sheet (MSDS)

**Protect yourself from  
chemical hazards! Use  
your right to know.**

## Your employer's hazard communication plan and training inform you about:

- Physical and health hazards of chemicals you use or handle on the job
- How to use labels and MSDSs to identify hazards and protections
- Signs and symptoms of chemical exposure
- Equipment and procedures you can use to work safely with chemicals



