

Fact Sheet

Revised Hazard Communication Standard Training Initiative

As of May 26, 2012, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) is now aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). A collaborative group of DOE and stakeholder personnel is developing GHS materials that can be incorporated into HCS computer-based learning and classroom training courses.

This update to the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) provides a common and coherent approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets. Major changes in the standard were made in the areas of hazard classification, labeling, safety data sheets, and information and training. The revised standard is intended to improve the quality and consistency of hazard information in the workplace, making it safer for workers by providing easily understandable information on appropriate handling and safe use of hazardous chemicals.

All employers, including the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors, with hazardous chemicals in their workplaces must comply with the standard, [29 CFR 1910.1200](#), including the requirement to train workers by December 1, 2013 on the new label elements and safety data sheets format.

Soon after the revised HCS appeared in the Federal Register, the DOE Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) partnered with the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) and the Industrial Hygiene/Occupational Safety Special Interest Group (IH/OS SIG) to assemble needed materials for the revised HCS. Soon afterwards; representatives from organized labor; the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; and the DOE Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center, joined in the group efforts. A SharePoint site provided by the IH/OS SIG is used as an electronic storage area for these collected materials. The group enlisted professionals within the DOE community to produce needed materials to help sites address specific technical and training gaps in current site Hazard Communication programs created by the revised HCS. The technical subgroup is addressing requirements for use of the new GHS pictograms, labels, and Safety Data Sheets.

When finalized, all newly developed materials will be made available for use by the DOE community.

For more information about this initiative, please contact David Weitzman (DOE, HSS) at: david.weitzman@hq.doe.gov or Dina Siegel (LANL) at: dinas@lanl.gov. (7/31/12)

