



Hazard Communication Tops OSHA Violations Increase safety, minimize liability and avoid costly fines at your Building

By Rod Anderson

One important challenge facing building, facility and loss prevention managers is protecting employees and ensuring compliance with OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard - OSHA CFR 1910.1200 – known as the “Right To Know” law.

OSHA's Top General Violation in 2006

OSHA issued over 7,127 fines between October 2005 and September 2006, totaling over \$1.5 million for failure to comply with one or more aspects of the Hazard Communication “HazCom” standard. Most of the fines issued in 2006 resulted from one of the following four key areas:



- Failure to develop and maintain a written Hazard Communication Program.
- Lack of employee training or failure to maintain training.
- Failure to have MSDS's for each hazardous chemical in the facility.
- Failure to properly label hazardous chemical containers.

The HazCom standard mandates chemical hazards are carefully evaluated, clearly marked and effectively communicated to employees within your building.

The goal of the HazCom standard is to reduce the incidence of chemical source illnesses in American workplaces. All employees have a need and a right to know the potential hazards of the chemicals they may be exposed to and to know what steps to take to prevent problems related to chemical exposure.

According to the OSHA website, "All employers with hazardous chemicals in their workplaces must prepare and implement a written hazard communication program, and must ensure that all containers are labeled, employees are provided access to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), and an effective training program is conducted for all potentially exposed employees."



The program aims to educate employees with chemical labeling and MSDS information and to be aware of protection programs to avoid exposure to hazardous substances. The standard covers both physical hazards, such as flammable or explosive chemicals, and health hazards, such as chemicals that might cause either acute or chronic health problems.

A HazCom Safety Checklist for Your Building

Does your facility have the basics of a comprehensive, cost-effective hazard communication program that increases employee safety and avoids costly OSHA fines? Here's a checklist to begin to help you evaluate your program.

Does your facility have:

<p>Documented Hazard Communication Program OSHA requires all businesses that use hazardous chemicals have a documented hazcom program.</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>
<p>MSDS Information Centers OSHA requires MSDSs to be easily accessible to all employees</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>
<p>Right To Know Container Labels & Tags OSHA requires secondary chemical container labels to be labeled</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>
<p>Right To Know Training Aids (posters, wallet cards & booklets) OSHA requires employees to trained on and understand MSDSs and your labeling program.</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>
<p>Hazardous Chemical Signs & Placards OSHA requires chemical storage areas and tanks be identified</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>
<p>Hazardous Waste Labels OSHA mandates identification of hazardous waste materials for transportation off-site.</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>



Brady's "Buildings ID" catalog

Brady, a world leader in buildings and facility safety and identification products, offers a full line of Right-to-Know products including Hazard Communications Programs, MSDS Information Centers, Training Posters, Hazard Information Placards, Chemical Signs, MarkWare™ Tape and Label Software; the GlobalMark®2 Industrial Label Maker; the MiniMark™ Printer, and other easy-to-use tools that help companies comply with the standard.

These products can help you quickly and cost-effectively develop an effective hazardous chemical communications program, label hazardous material, and maintain effective employee training. And in doing so, increase safety, minimize liability, reduce accidents and avoid OSHA fines.

For more information about Brady's Hazard Communication /Right-to-Know or other safety identification products for your building, contact Brady customer service at 1-888-272-3946 to request our new Buildings ID catalog or to discuss your company's specific needs with a Brady specialist or visit our online catalog at www.bradyyid.com.

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