

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)  
REGULATORY UPDATES**

**FINAL STATUTES AND RULEMAKINGS**

Citations	Summary
<p>Title: Hazard Communication Federal Register No.: 77: 17574-17896 Publication Date of Final Rule: 03/22/12 Standard Nos.: 1910; 1915; 1926</p>	<p>To better protect workers from hazardous chemicals, OSHA has revised its Hazard Communication Standard, aligning it with the United Nations' global chemical labeling system. The new standard, once implemented, will prevent an estimated 43 deaths and 585 injuries and illnesses annually, and result in an estimated \$475.2 million in enhanced productivity for U.S. businesses each year.</p> <p>Major changes to the Hazard Communication Standard include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Hazard classification:</b> Chemical manufacturers and importers are required to determine the hazards of the chemicals they produce or import. Hazard classification under the new, updated standard provides specific criteria to address health and physical hazards as well as classification of chemical mixtures.</li> <li>▪ <b>Labels:</b> Chemical manufacturers and importers must provide a label that includes a signal word, pictogram, hazard statement, and precautionary statement for each hazard class and category.</li> <li>▪ <b>Safety Data Sheets (SDS):</b> The new format requires 16 specific sections, ensuring consistency in presentation of important protection information.</li> <li>▪ <b>Information and training:</b> To facilitate understanding of the new system, the new standard requires that workers be trained by December 1, 2013 on the new label elements and safety data sheet format, in addition to the current hazards communication training requirements.</li> </ul> <p>The Hazard Communication Standard will be fully implemented in 2016 and benefit workers by reducing confusion about chemical hazards in the workplace, facilitating safety training and improving understanding of hazards, especially for low literacy workers. OSHA's standard will classify chemicals according to their health and physical hazards, and establish consistent labels and safety data sheets for all chemicals made in the United States and imported from abroad.</p> <p>Key implementation dates are noted in the following table. Additional information is available on the OSHA website at: <a href="http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html">http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html</a></p>

Due Date	Hazard Communication Standard Requirement(s)
December 1, 2013	Train employees on the new label elements and SDS format.
June 1, 2015	Comply with all modified provisions of the final rule. Note: Distributors may ship products labeled by manufacturers under the old system until December 1, 2015.

Due Date	Hazard Communication Standard Requirement(s)
June 1, 2016	Update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication programs as necessary, and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical and health hazards.
Transition Period	Comply with either 29 CFR 1910.1200 (this final standard), or the current standard, or both.

**Letters of Interpretation:**

OSHA has issued the following letters of interpretation since our last regulatory summary update.

- Removal of contaminated needles prior to disposal not permitted under the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. 1910.1030; 1910.1030(d)(2)(vii)(A). Issued on December 19, 2011.
  - [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27869](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27869)
- Reiteration of OSHA policy on unguarded sweep augers in grain storage structures. 1910.272; 1910.272(g)(1)(ii). Issued on February 16, 2012.
  - [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=28055](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=28055)

**Other Recent Developments:**

**OSHA announces new online Outreach Training Program providers**

OSHA selected 10 OSHA authorized training providers to deliver 25 online courses as part of its Outreach Training Program. The OSHA Outreach Training Program teaches workers how to identify, prevent, and eliminate workplace hazards. The courses are voluntary and are not required by OSHA, but they provide training that can help protect workers' safety and health and help employers reduce the high costs of worker injuries and illnesses. The organizations selected by OSHA to offer the online courses will provide a variety of 10- and 30-hour classes designed for Construction and General Industry. Access to courses and other information about the program are available from OSHA's Outreach Training Program Web page: <http://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/index.html>

**New OSHA training videos in English and Spanish help educate workers on respirator use**

OSHA has posted a series of 17 videos to help workers learn about the proper use of respirators on the job. These short videos, nine in English and eight in Spanish, provide valuable information to workers in general industry and construction. Topics include OSHA's Respiratory Standard, respirator use, training, fit-testing and detecting counterfeit respirators. The clips are available with closed captioning for streaming or download from OSHA's Web site at: [http://www.osha.gov/video/respiratory\\_protection/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/video/respiratory_protection/index.html)

**New OSHA worker educational publication on protection from noise in construction**

OSHA published a new educational publication for construction workers, *Protecting Yourself from Noise in Construction*. The booklet, written for workers and employers, provides information on the hazards of loud noise in construction, how noise levels are measured, and how to find out if noise on the job site or from tools is

loud enough to cause hearing loss. It also gives examples of administrative and engineering controls employers can use to reduce worker exposure to noise, as well as information on the proper selection and use of personal hearing protection. The document is available at:

<http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.searchResults?pSearch=3498>

**New fact sheet provides information on protecting shipyard workers from eye injuries during welding and cutting operations**

A new OSHA fact sheet, Eye Protection against Radiant Energy during Welding and Cutting in Shipyard Employment, is intended to help prevent worker eye injuries in the maritime industry. Electromagnetic energy given off by an arc or flame, commonly referred to as radiant energy or light radiation, can injure workers' eyes. For protection from radiant energy, employers must ensure that workers use the necessary personal protective equipment, such as safety glasses, goggles, welding helmets or welding face shields. This equipment must have filter lenses with a shade number that provides the appropriate level of protection. A shade number indicates the intensity of light radiation that is allowed to pass through a filter lens to one's eyes. The higher the shade number, the darker the filter and the less light radiation that will pass through the lens. Tables in the fact sheet provide the proper shade numbers to be used under various conditions when performing welding operations including gas and metal arc welding and oxygen cutting. A copy of the document is available at:

<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHAfactsheet-eyeprotection-during-welding.pdf>

**Nurses' miscarriages linked to chemicals at work**

A new study from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has found a greater-than-expected risk of miscarriages among nurses exposed to hazardous substances at work. Occupational exposure to chemotherapy drugs and disinfectants were associated with increased risk of miscarriage. An abstract of the study is available at: [http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(11\)02470-7/abstract](http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(11)02470-7/abstract)

**Occupational exposure to diesel exhaust multiplies risk of lung cancer for miners**

Researchers from NIOSH and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) have found that miners exposed to diesel exhaust on the job face a much higher risk for lung cancer. In a cohort mortality study and a nested case-control study, both recently published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, researchers analyzed lung cancer mortality among miners exposed to diesel exhaust, controlling for smoking, exposure to radon, and other risk factors and contaminants. The authors found an approximately three-fold increase in the risk of dying from lung cancer among the most heavily exposed workers. Diesel exhaust is a pervasive airborne contaminant in workplaces where diesel-powered equipment is used. More than one million workers are exposed to diesel exhaust and face the risk of adverse health effects, ranging from headaches and nausea to cancer and respiratory disease. Copies of the studies are available at:

- [http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our\\_journals/jnci/press\\_releases/attfielddjs035.pdf](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/jnci/press_releases/attfielddjs035.pdf)
- [http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our\\_journals/jnci/press\\_releases/silvermandjs034.pdf](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/jnci/press_releases/silvermandjs034.pdf)

For more information on occupational hazards associated with diesel exhaust, visit OSHA's Diesel Exhaust webpage at: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/dieselexhaust/index.html>