

New Requirements for Right-to-Know Training

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The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), has revised its Hazard Communication (Right-to-Know) Standard in order to improve worker understanding of the hazards associated with the chemicals in their workplace. This was done in order to align the OSHA standard with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) and contains significant changes including; the use of new labeling elements with pictograms and a new standardized format for Safety Data Sheets (SDS's) formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's). In order to phase in these requirements OSHA is requiring specific training for employees by December 1, 2013. Some of the topics for this training include:

- **Label elements:** including a product identifier, a signal word used to indicate the severity of the hazard (e.g. "Danger" or "Warning"), pictograms (see link below), hazard statements and precautionary statement(s).
- **Label use:** including proper storage and how to quickly locate information on first aid.
- **How the Label Elements Work Together:** such as a single chemical with multiple hazards and how different pictograms are used to identify these hazards.
- **Safety Data Sheets (SDS):** The new SDS will have a standardized 16 section format including Exposure Controls/Personal Protection.
- **Relating information on the label to the SDS**

This training is planned for New York State Weights & Measures Specialists at our annual training school in June. Training requirements may vary in each state so I would encourage officials to contact their safety coordinator for specific state requirements.

For a detailed explanation of OSHA's requirements, other effective dates, pictograms, safety data sheets and other important information please visit: <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>