

Pinnacol Pointers

for Safety Group Programs

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 2 FEB. 2017

PINNACOL
ASSURANCE

Editor's Note: Safety Group Program Monthly Newsletter Article – Feb. 2017
Contact: Mindy Carrothers (303.361.4790, mindy.carrothers@pinnacol.com)

Ensuring HazCom Compliance & Worker Safety

When you're creating a hazard communication, or HazCom, program for your facility, OSHA requires that the program describe how the requirements for labels and other forms of warning, safety data sheets, and employee information and training will be met in the workplace.

The HazCom standard ensures employees' right to know and understand the potential hazards of chemicals they work with, as well as the safeguards to protect themselves. OSHA's HazCom standard requires employers to:

- Develop a written hazard communication program
- Create a list of the hazardous chemicals present in the workplace
- Label each container of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Maintain copies of the safety data sheets (SDSs) for each hazardous chemical and ensure they are readily available to employees
- Provide employees with effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area

Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)

The HazCom standard is now aligned with the United Nations' GHS, an international approach to HazCom. It provides harmonized classification criteria for the health and environmental hazards of chemicals, as well as a standardized approach to label elements and SDSs. SDSs now have a specified 16-section format, and labels require the following six elements:

- Product name or identifier. For example, "WD-40"
- Signal word. For example, "danger" or "warning"
- Pictogram(s)
- Hazard statement(s)
- Precautionary statement(s)
- Name, address and telephone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer or other responsible party

Training is essential to effective HazCom. The OSHA HazCom standard required that employers train workers on the new label elements and SDS format by Dec. 1, 2013, and fully comply with the standard by Dec. 1, 2015.

Resources

For more information, visit [OSHA's HazCom webpage](#). Another helpful resource is the [Society of Chemical Hazard Communication](#). Also, check out [Pinnacol's HazCom pages](#) for further information and downloads of a sample written hazard communication program, training materials and more. Pinnacol offers J.J. Keller safety resources on this topic, including training videos, interactive training and safety talks. Or call Pinnacol's Safety On Call hotline at (303)361-4700 or (888)501-4752. Our Safety Services Team is ready to answer questions, provide materials, and help your organization remain compliant and keep your employees safe, healthy and productive.

###