

Hazard Communication - Appendix A: Definitions

Article - a manufactured item other than a fluid or particle that is formed to a specific shape or design, has end use functions dependent upon its shape, does not release more than very small (trace) quantities of a hazardous chemical, and does not pose a physical hazard or health risk to employees

Chemical - any substance, or mixture of substances

Chemical manufacturer - an employer where chemicals are produced for use or distribution

Chemical name - the scientific designation of a chemical in accordance with the nomenclature system developed by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) or the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) rules of nomenclature, or a name that will clearly identify the chemical for the purpose of conducting a hazard classification

Classification - system used to identify the relevant data regarding the hazards associated with a chemical including classification for health and/or physical hazards including the degree of hazard, where appropriate.

Container - any bag, barrel, bottle, box, can, cylinder, drum, reaction vessel, storage tank, or the like that contains a hazardous chemical. For purposes of this section, pipes or piping systems, and engines, fuel tanks, or other operating systems in a vehicle, are not considered to be containers.

Distributor - a business, other than a chemical manufacturer or importer, which supplies hazardous chemicals to other distributors or to employers.

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act - the law concerned with emergency response preparedness.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - the United States Agency responsible for maintaining and enforcing national standards and regulations pertaining to environmental protection.

Exposure or exposed – when an employee is subjected in the course of a work task to a chemical that is a physical or health hazard, and includes potential (e.g. accidental or possible) exposure. "Subjected" in terms of health hazards includes any route of entry (e.g., inhalation, ingestion, skin contact or absorption.)

Emergency - any potential occurrence such as, but not limited to, equipment failure, rupture of containers, or failure of control equipment which could result in an uncontrolled release of a hazardous chemical into the workplace

Globally Harmonized System (GHS) - the international standard adopted by OSHA which includes standardized hazard testing criteria, universal warning pictograms, and harmonized safety data sheets.

Hazard category - the division of criteria within each hazard classification. These categories compare hazard severity within a hazard class and should not be taken as a comparison of hazard categories more generally

Hazard class - the nature of the physical or health hazards, e.g., flammable solid, carcinogen, oral acute toxicity.

Hazard not otherwise classified - an adverse physical or health effect identified through evaluation of scientific evidence during the classification process that does not meet the specified criteria for the physical and health hazard classes as stated by OSHA.

Hazard statement - a statement assigned to a hazard class and category that describes the nature of the hazard(s) of a chemical, including, where appropriate, the degree of hazard.

Hazardous chemical - any chemical, which is classified as a physical or health, such as simple asphyxiant, combustible dust, or pyrophoric gas.

Hazardous Material Information System (HMIS) - the classification system based on a numerical hazard rating and incorporates a color code system.

Health hazard - a chemical which poses one of the following hazardous effects: acute toxicity (any route of exposure); skin corrosion or irritation; serious eye damage or eye irritation; respiratory or skin sensitization; germ cell mutagenicity; carcinogenicity; reproductive toxicity; specific target organ toxicity (single or repeated exposure); or aspiration hazard.

Importer - the first business within the United States which receives hazardous chemicals produced in other countries for the purpose of supplying them to distributors or employers within the United States.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - the trade association that creates and maintains standards and codes for fire protection and suppression systems.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) - the United States agency responsible for standards and regulations for ensuring safe and healthy working conditions.

Physical hazard - a chemical that is classified as posing one of the following hazardous effects: explosive; flammable (gases, aerosols, liquids, or solids); oxidizer (liquid, solid or gas); self-reactive; pyrophoric (liquid or solid); self-heating; organic peroxide; corrosive to metal; gas under pressure; or in contact with water emits flammable gas.

Pictogram - a composition that may include a symbol plus other graphic elements, such as a border, background pattern, or color, that is intended to convey specific information about the hazards of a chemical. Eight pictograms are designated under the GHS standard for application to a hazard category.

Precautionary statement - a phrase that describes recommended measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a hazardous chemical, or improper storage or handling.

Product Identifier - the name or number used for a hazardous chemical on a label or in the SDS. It provides a unique means by which the user can identify the chemical. The product identifier used shall permit cross-references to be made among the hazardous chemical inventory, the label, and the SDS.

Reportable quantity - the amount (equal to or greater than) at which a chemical substance is required to be reported. For chemicals listed by OSHA as an Extremely Hazardous Substance, this amount is listed in 40 CFR 355 Appendix A and B. For all other chemicals it is 10,000 pounds.

Safety data sheet (SDS) - written or printed material concerning a hazardous chemical that is prepared in accordance with OSHA rules that includes 16 major sections.

Signal Word - a word used to indicate the relative level of severity of hazard and alert the reader to a potential hazard on the label. The signal words used by OSHA are “danger” and “warning”. “Danger” is used for the more severe hazards, while “warning” is used for the less severe.

Simple asphyxiant - a substance or mixture that displaces oxygen in the ambient atmosphere and can thus cause oxygen deprivation in those who are exposed, leading to unconsciousness and death.

Substance - chemical elements and their compounds in the natural state or obtained by any production process, including any additive necessary to preserve the stability of the product and any impurities deriving from the process used, but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition.

Work area - a room or defined space in a workplace where hazardous chemicals are produced or used, and where employees are present.

Workplace - an establishment, job site, or project, at one geographical location containing one or more work areas.

Workplace Labeling - the label applied to a secondary container for a chemical that was transferred out of its original container. The label displays specific elements from the original label that provide general information regarding the hazards associated with the material.