

Loss Control Bulletin

General Industry Safety Order §5194 of the State of California establishes the requirements for certain employers to implement Hazardous Materials Communications Programs (HAZCOM). The standard outlined in §5194 is comprehensive. Every employer should have a copy and be familiar with it.

Requirements for chemical manufacturers and importers are more stringent than for general employers. They include the obligation to evaluate substances and to determine the hazards associated with their use in the workplace.

The information contained in this bulletin is for general employers. It provides a broad overview of the main requirements of Safety Order §5194. In general, employers must inform, protect, equip, and train employees and keep written records of all these activities. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and hazard warning labels are required as part of a HAZCOM program.

Inventory

Employers are required to develop and maintain a written list of hazardous substances used by employees throughout their operations.

Plans and Procedures

Employers must develop and maintain written plans and procedures for operations involving the use of hazardous material by employees. An emergency spill and containment plan must also be prepared.

Labels

The specified pictogram, hazard statement, signal word, and precautionary statement for each hazard class and category is required and all containers be labeled as to their contents. Labels must indicate the degree of hazard with the words "DANGER", "WARNING", or "CAUTION." They must also include other vital information to ensure the safe handling and use of the substance. Labeling must conform to the specifications of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act as issued by the Department of Transportation.

Special labeling under §5194 is not required where the labeling of the chemical or substance is following labeling regulated under the following federal regulatory programs:

- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
- Environmental Protection Agency's labeling requirements
- Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms labeling requirements
- Consumer Product Safety Act
- Federal Hazardous Substances Act
- Solid Waste Disposal Act

Safety Data Sheets

Safety Data Sheets for all hazardous materials inventoried by the company can be obtained from suppliers or manufacturers. Copies of SDS must be available for employees to review in the workplace areas where the materials are used.

Any personal protection equipment called for in the SDS or on labels must be provided as required and must be properly used and maintained.

Training

Employees must receive training on the following:

- how to read and understand MSDS
- how to read and follow instructions on labels
- the proper and safe use of personal protective equipment
- the proper procedures for working safely with the substances in use
- emergency and first aid procedures

Records

Written records must be maintained for all activities described above.

The requirements of the Hazardous Communications Program are complex due to references to multiple other federal and state regulatory programs. Special circumstances and conditions may trigger questions that can best be answered by reference to the standard itself. If you would like additional assistance, please call Republic Indemnity's Loss Control Consultants.

Website Resources:

https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/hazcom.pdf

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dir.ca.gov%2Fdosh%2Fdosh_publications%2FSample-Hazcom-Program.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/5194.html>