

Hazard Communication in Agriculture GHS Training Requirements

OAR
437-004-9800
Division 4/Z

Hazard Communication in Agriculture
GHS Training Requirements

In 2014, Oregon OSHA revised the Division 4 Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) for agricultural employers to align it with the Federal HCS and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

To help agricultural employers comply, Oregon OSHA is phasing-in the new requirements from Feb. 1, 2015, through June 1, 2016.

PHASE-IN DATES

Completion date	Requirements	Who
Feb. 1, 2015 *	Train employees on the safety data sheet (SDS) format and new label elements.	Agricultural employers
June 1, 2015	Be in compliance with all modified provisions of the final rule, including the new labels and SDSs, except: Distributors may continue shipping old containers without the required GHS label until Dec. 1, 2015.	Chemical manufacturers, importers, and distributors
June 1, 2016	Update any alternative workplace labeling and your hazard communication program as necessary. Provide any additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards.	Agricultural employers

* After Feb. 1, 2015, employers must include this information in new employees' initial hazard communication training.

- Standardized, 16-section format for safety data sheets (SDSs).** Include the type of information found in the each section. For example, Section 8, *Exposure Controls/ Personal Protection* will have information about recommended ways for users to protect themselves, including types of personal protective equipment.
- Six required label elements.**
 - Product identifier** tells how the hazardous chemical is identified. This can be the chemical name, code number, or batch number. The manufacturer, importer, or distributor can decide the appropriate product identifier. The same product identifier must be on the label and in section 1 of the safety data sheet to allow employees to cross-reference the information.
 - Signal words** are used to indicate the level of severity of hazard. There are only two signal words – “DANGER” and “WARNING.” Within a specific hazard class, “DANGER” is used for the more severe hazards and “WARNING” for the less severe hazards. There can be only one signal word on the label. For multiple hazards, only the more severe signal word will appear on the label.
 - Hazard statements** describe the nature of the hazards of a chemical, including the degree of hazards, and are specific to the hazard classification categories. Chemical users should always see the same statement for the same hazards, no matter what the chemical is or who produces it. All of the applicable hazard statements must appear on the label, although they may be combined to improve readability.

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Hazard Communication in Agriculture GHS Training Requirements *continued*

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- **Precautionary statements** are phrases that describe measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a hazardous chemical or improper storage or handling. These may include first-aid instructions and what to do in case of a fire.
- **Supplier identification** must include the name, address, and emergency phone number of the chemical manufacturer, distributor, importer, or other responsible person.
- **Pictograms** must be in the shape of a red-outlined diamond with a black hazard symbol on a white background that is sufficiently wide enough to be clearly visible. OSHA has designated nine pictograms under this standard for application to a hazard category.



NOTE: These new requirements do not apply to all types of chemical labels. For example, do not expect to see these changes on pesticide product labels (they are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency) or consumer product labels (they are regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission).

Training suggestions

Show how the employee can use the label information in the workplace.

- Explain how the pictogram, signal word, and hazard statements give an overview of the hazards.
- Show where to look on the label for first-aid information.

Explain how the information on the label is related to the SDS. Specifically, use the product identifier on the label to find the product's SDS in your binder or electronically.

Teach the employee to find useful information in safety data sheets. For example, show them the section of the SDS that tells them what type of PPE to use for safe handling of the chemical.

Training resources

- Peso module: [Hazard Communication in Agriculture Feb. 1, 2015 GHS Training Requirements](#) (English and Spanish)
- Globally Harmonized System Pictogram Card ([English/Spanish](#))
- Oregon OSHA's [Hazard Communication Topic page](#)
- Oregon OSHA's [GHS Topic page](#)
- Federal OSHA's [Hazard Communication aligned with GHS page](#)

Remember!

Employers must provide effective training. This means training workers in a manner and language that they can understand. Communicate safety and health information in the same way you communicate other workplace instructions, and present the training in a way that takes into account your worker's primary language (especially if it is not English), literacy level, and vocabulary level.

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