Texas Hazard Communication and Right to Know

The 69th Legislature of the State of Texas, in 1985, enacted the Texas Hazard Communication Act. The law became effective January 1, 1986. The purpose of this law is to inform workers and the general public about chemical hazards in the work place and in the community. The act requires public employers to provide their employees with information and timing on hazardous chemicals to which they may be exposed to at work.

Legal Requirements

Training

- New employees must receive training instructions and information from UTEP prior to working with or being exposed to chemicals. This training must cover the specific hazards in their work area.
- Employees must receive additional instruction and information when new chemical hazards are introduced in their workplace or when new hazards are shown on updated Safety Data Sheets (SDSs).
- Employees will need new or additional instruction when they are assigned to different workplaces that involve new chemical hazards.

Labels

- Every hazardous chemical container must have a label which identifies it and lists the appropriate hazard warnings. Do not deface or remove this label. When a chemical is transferred to a secondary container, the container must be labeled with the name of the chemical. Be sure to add the label before beginning work with any chemical.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) give information on specific chemicals or mixtures and must be readily available for all the hazardous chemicals in the workplace. All chemical and product manufactures are required by Federal Law to provide SDSs for all of their hazardous products. These may be obtained by calling or writing the manufacture or distributor. Many manufactures have 800 phone numbers. Certain generic SDS are also available via the local area network, university system, and at EH&S as described in the next section.

Workplace Chemical List

This is a list of hazardous chemicals in large quantities and extremely hazardous chemicals which are present or in use in the lab. It must be available to all personnel using the lab to help them identifying which SDSs to review.

Employee Notification Poster

- Employee notification posters must be posted in the workplace and should be covered in training. These posters must be kept up to date. Employee notification posters are available through EH&S.