

## **Texas Hazard Communication and Right to Know**

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The 69<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Texas, in 1985, enacted the Texas Hazard Communication Act (THCA). The University is a public workplace covered by the THCA. The purpose of this law is to inform workers and the general public about chemical hazards in the workplace and in the community. The Act requires the University and other public employers to provide employees with timely information on hazardous chemicals to which they may be exposed in their work area(s).

### **Legal Requirement for Education Program and Written Hazard Communication Program**

- New employees must receive training instruction and information from UTEP prior to working with or being exposed to hazardous chemicals. This training must cover the specific chemical hazards in their work area, the PPE available for protection of the employee, Notices to the Employees, and how to report violations and to request more information.
- Employees must receive additional instruction and information whenever 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 that were not covered by previous instruction.
- Employees shall be educated regarding the Written Hazard Communication Program found at Section II, Chapter 3 of the EH&S Manual, which is reviewed and updated annually.

### **Labels**

Every hazardous chemical container received at the University must have a GHS compliant label that 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 secondary 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 websites that make their most up to date SDSs routinely and readily as needed. Certain generic SDS are also available via the internet.

### **Workplace Chemical List**

The workplace chemical list is a listing of individual hazardous chemicals on campus present in work areas above 55 gallons or above other more stringent reporting thresholds for extremely hazardous or toxic materials. The workplace chemical list is available at the EH&S Website or by visiting the EH&S Office.

### **Employee Notification Poster**

Employee notification posters are posted at the bulletin board location outside of the HR Offices at the Administration Building. This location is the official posting site for right to know information related to employment. These posters are kept current by EH&S when new versions are made available by the Texas Department of State Health Services.