

Changes to the HAZCOM Standard

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OSHA has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking this past September to address changes to the federal Hazard Communications (HazCom—also known as Employee Right-to-Know, or ERK, in Minnesota) Standard. The proposed changes will align the HazCom Standard with the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling (GHS). OSHA states their reasons for the change are to improve quality and consistency in the classification and labeling of all chemicals and enhance worker comprehension, resulting in appropriate handling and use of chemicals.

Perhaps the most significant changes will be to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). Under the GHS, they will be referred to as Safety Data Sheets and involve a specified 16-section format. Other changes will provide specific criteria for the classification of health and physical hazards and will require chemical manufacturers and importers to provide a label that includes a harmonized signal word, pictogram, and hazard statement for each hazard class and category.

Additional training requirements under the GHS will involve familiarization with the standardized labels and Safety Data Sheets. Otherwise, the training provisions will remain the same as in the existing HAZCOM Standard. The comment period began in September and will expire on December 29, 2009. Public hearings will follow in early 2010 with the potential of being finalized in the Federal Register in late 2010.



December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month

For tips, downloads, and other resources, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's [website](#) or call 202.366.9550.

Pandemic Flu Planning Toolkit

The University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) published

[*Doing Business During an Influenza Pandemic: Human Resource Policies, Protocols, Templates, Tools, & Tips*](#)

to help business leaders new to pandemic planning learn about high-priority HR issues related to operating during an influenza pandemic, provide concrete ways organizations can implement CDC guidelines, and offer ideas to improve existing plans.



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