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# **HAZARD COMMUNICATION, THE GHS & YOU**

*(Concise)*

**Leader's Guide, Fact Sheet  
& Quiz**

Item Number: 5020  
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***This easy-to-use Leader's Guide is provided to assist in conducting a successful presentation.***

## **PREPARING FOR THE MEETING**

Here are a few suggestions for using this program:

- a) Review the contents of the Fact Sheet that immediately follows this page to familiarize yourself with the program topic and the training points discussed in the program. The Fact Sheet also includes a list of Program Objectives that details the information that participants should learn from watching the program.
- b) If required by your organization, make an attendance record to be signed by each participant to document the training to be conducted.
- c) Prepare the area and equipment to be used for the training. Make sure the watching environment is comfortable and free from outside distractions. Also, ensure that participants can see and hear the TV screen or computer monitor without obstructions.
- d) Make copies of the Review Quiz included at the end of this Leader's Guide to be completed by participants at the conclusion of the presentation. Be aware that the page containing the answers to the quiz comes before the quiz itself, which is on the final page.

## **CONDUCTING THE PRESENTATION**

- a) Begin the meeting by welcoming the participants. Introduce yourself and give each person an opportunity to become acquainted if there are new people joining the training session.
- b) Introduce the program by its title and explain to participants what they are expected to learn as stated in the Program Objectives of the Fact Sheet.
- c) Play the program without interruption. Upon completion, lead discussions about your organization's specific policies regarding the subject matter. Make sure to note any unique hazards associated with the program's topic that participants may encounter while performing their job duties at your facility.
- d) Hand out copies of the review quiz to all of the participants and make sure each one completes it before concluding the training session.

# 5020 HAZARD COMMUNICATION, THE GHS & YOU (*Concise*) FACT SHEET

LENGTH: 14 MINUTES

PRODUCTION YEAR: 2015

## PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:

As mandated by OSHA, chemical safety data must be conveyed through the use of the standard communication elements found in the Globally Harmonized System for the Labeling and Classification of Chemicals, commonly called the GHS for short. The program explains each of these communication elements so your employees will understand how chemical hazards are communicated and how to use this information to ensure their safety when storing, handling and using hazardous substances. An overview is provided regarding container label information, signal words, hazard and precautionary statements, physical and health hazard pictograms, Safety Data Sheets and the written Hazard Communication Program.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

After watching the program, the participant should be able to explain:

- What basic information can be found on a chemical label;
- What severity of hazard the signal words of Danger and Warning indicate;
- What information is provided by hazard and precautionary statements;
- Which pictograms are used to convey physical, health and environmental hazards;
- What information is detailed in Safety Data Sheets and the Written Hazard Communication Program.

## PROGRAM OUTLINE

### INTRODUCTION

- Generally referred to as the Hazard Communication Program or HazCom for short, your organization's chemical safety program is based on OSHA Regulation 1910.1200, titled "Hazard Communication." OSHA's regulation mandates the use of the standard communication elements found in the Globally Harmonized System for the Labeling and Classification of Chemicals commonly called the GHS for short.
- The GHS was developed by the United Nations to be a single standard for the classifying and labeling of chemicals according to their physical, health and environment hazards.
  - An important part of chemical safety is your understanding of the Hazard Communication Program and the standard GHS elements it uses to communicate chemical hazards.

### CONTAINER LABELS & SIGNAL WORDS

- As a part of the Globally Harmonized System, or GHS, chemical manufacturers and importers must provide a container label that includes a signal word, hazard statements, precautionary statements and a pictogram to help explain a chemical's hazards.
- Workers should make the container label their first resource for information about a chemical or substance.
- The container label will include the product identifier, which is the name or United Nations' identification number used for a hazardous substance.
- The supplier's name, address and phone number will also be on the label.
- The chemical label may also include a signal word. A signal word is used to quickly indicate the relative severity of the chemical's most severe hazard.
- There are only two signal words used, "Danger" and "Warning." The signal word Danger is used to represent the more severe hazards, while the signal word Warning is used to represent lessor hazards.

### HAZARD & PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

- While the signal word provides information about the severity of a chemical's hazard, it is the hazard statement that provides a concise description of the various hazards presented by a chemical.
- Consulting the hazard statements on a container label is the easiest way to learn the exact nature of a chemical's hazards.
- Chemical labels also contain precautionary statements. Precautionary statements are brief phrases that explain the required measures for the safe handling of the chemical or mixture.
- Consulting the precautionary statements on a container label is the easiest way to learn about the requirements for safe use, handling and storage.

### PHYSICAL HAZARD PICTOGRAMS

- Another communication element found on a chemical's label is a pictogram. Pictograms are used to represent the hazards of a chemical.

- The GHS mandates the use of standardized pictograms so safety information can be conveyed without concern for any language barriers.
- Chemical hazards are divided into three types: physical hazards, health hazards and environmental hazards.
- Physical hazards are properties of a substance or mixture that could physically harm you or the facility, such as a fire or explosion hazard.
- There are five pictograms that are used to represent the various physical hazards.
- The exploding bomb pictogram indicates that a material is explosive or is an unstable self-reactive or unstable organic peroxide.
- The flame pictogram is used to represent flammable gases, liquids and solids as well as pyrophoric and self-heating substances.
- The flame over circle pictogram, also called the oxidizer pictogram, signifies that a chemical can cause or contribute to the intensity of a fire.
- The gas cylinder pictogram is used when a substance is a compressed, dissolved or liquefied gas under pressure.
- The corrosion pictogram is exhibited when a material is corrosive to metal.

#### **HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD PICTOGRAMS**

- Health hazards are properties of a substance or mixture that can cause illness or injury to the eyes, lungs, skin, internal organs or other body parts.
- In addition to representing a physical hazard, the corrosion pictogram is also used to represent the health hazard of skin corrosion and serious eye damage.
- The exclamation point, or irritant pictogram, represents skin irritation, eye irritation, skin sensitization, narcotic effects, respiratory tract irritation and non-fatal acute toxicity.
- The skull and crossbones pictogram denotes that a chemical is acutely toxic, and exposure may be fatal.
- The health hazard pictogram indicates that the substance is a carcinogen or causes respiratory sensitization or germ cell mutagenicity. The health hazard pictogram also represents reproductive toxicity, an aspiration hazard or specific target organ toxicity.
- Environmental hazards are properties of a substance or mixture that cause aquatic toxicity and damage to living organisms in water or cause damage to the ozone layer.
- The environment pictogram can be used when a substance poses hazards to the aquatic environment and the exclamation point, or irritant pictogram, can be used to indicate that a chemical is damaging to the ozone layer.
- It's important to remember that pictograms are designed to quickly alert workers to the potential hazards of a substance.

#### **SAFETY DATA SHEETS**

- Workers will then need to seek out additional information in order to safely work with, store or handle the material. One important source for additional, detailed safety information about a chemical is the Safety Data Sheet.
- As part of your facility's Hazard Communication program, a Safety Data Sheet is maintained for every chemical used onsite. The GHS requires these Safety Data Sheets to have a uniform format in which information is presented in 16 sections that appear in a specific order. This uniformity helps workers quickly find important information.

#### **THE WRITTEN HAZARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM**

- To ensure that all workers have an understanding of chemical hazards in their workplace, OSHA requires organizations to develop and maintain a written Hazard Communication Program. The written program must be made available for workers to review upon request.
- Key elements of the written program include policies and procedures for container labeling, the accessible locations of Safety Data Sheets and a listing of the names and locations of all hazardous substances onsite.
- Also included in the written plan are the site-specific requirements for employee training.

#### **CONCLUSION**

- Your facility's Hazard Communication Program is designed to help you understand the chemical hazards in your workplace. It's up to you to use the valuable information contained on container labels and Safety Data Sheets, combined with site specific training, to ensure your safety while storing, handling or using hazardous chemicals.
- Always remember that the person most responsible for your safety is you.

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**ANSWERS TO THE REVIEW QUIZ**

1. b

2. a

3. a

4. b

5. c

6. a

7. b

8. a

9. b

**HAZARD COMMUNICATION, THE GHS & YOU (Concise)**  
**REVIEW QUIZ**

*The following questions are provided to determine how well you understand the information presented in this program.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. The GHS was developed by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. OSHA
  - b. The United Nations
  - c. The US Chemical Safety Board
  
2. Workers should make the container label their first resource for information about a chemical or substance.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
3. Which signal word is used to represent the more severe hazards?
  - a. Danger
  - b. Warning
  
4. Which statements on container labels explain the required measures for the safe handling of a chemical or mixture?
  - a. Hazard statements
  - b. Precautionary statements
  
5. Which physical hazard pictogram is also known as the oxidizer pictogram?
  - a. The exploding bomb pictogram
  - b. The flame pictogram
  - c. The flame over circle pictogram
  
6. What is the only pictogram that can be used to represent either a physical or health hazard?
  - a. The corrosion pictogram
  - b. The exploding bomb pictogram
  - c. The skull and crossbones pictogram
  
7. Which pictogram is also known as the irritant pictogram?
  - a. The skull and crossbones pictogram
  - b. The exclamation point pictogram
  - c. The health hazard pictogram
  
8. A Safety Data Sheet is maintained for every hazardous chemical used onsite.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
9. The written Hazard Communication Program is only available for management to review.
  - a. True
  - b. False