



HazCom

Quick Reference Card

HazCom Fundamentals

HazCom, short for **Hazard Communication**, serves as a translator for chemical safety, providing essential information for those handling chemicals. It's a set of rules and guidelines that simplify the understanding of chemical hazards for everyone, from warehouse workers to lab scientists.

32 million



workers in more than
3.5 million workplaces are
regularly exposed to
hazardous chemicals.

What are the Key Elements of HazCom?



Labels: Inform about chemical hazards and instructions.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS): Detailed chemical handling guides.

Training: Teaches interpretation of labels and SDS for safety.

An Overview of Hazardous Chemicals

Hazardous chemicals are categorized by their properties and risks:

Toxic Chemicals: Harmful
and often undetected.

Flammable Chemicals:
Quick to ignite.



Corrosive Chemicals:
Damages materials like metal.

Explosive Chemicals:
Dramatic energy releases.

Employer Responsibilities under HazCom

- Maintaining Proper Labels and Warnings
- Keeping and Updating Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)
- Training Employees
- Implementing Safety Measures

Language and Symbols in HazCom

Let's break down one of the most common HazCom symbols:



Flame: For flammable
materials like gasoline.



Flame Over Circle:
Indicates oxidizers.



Corrosion: Denotes
corrosive materials.



Skull and Crossbones:
Signals toxicity.



Explosives: For
explosive material.



Exclamation: Warns
of health effects



Environment: For
environment hazards.



Gas Cylinder: For
compressed gases.



Health Hazard: For
long-term health risks.



"These HazCom symbols act as a language, providing crucial information immediately about the materials you might encounter."

The Power of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

Material Safety Data Sheets, commonly referred to as MSDS, are documents packed with information about the properties of a particular substance. MSDS usually has fifteen sections, each with different information. Here's what you need to know:



- Identification
- Hazards
- Composition
- First-Aid Measures
- Fire-Fighting Measures
- Accidental Release
- Handling and Storage
- Stability and Reactivity
- Toxicological Information
- Ecological Information
- Disposal Considerations
- Transport Information
- Regulatory Information
- Physical/Chemical Properties
- Exposure Controls/Personal Protection



The MSDS uses Hazard Symbols for risk identification, Signal Words to indicate risk severity and Precautionary Statements for specific safety instructions.

Understanding Hazardous Chemical Labels

1. **Product Identifier:** Names the chemical. Product Identifier: Names the chemical.
2. **Signal Words:** Indicates hazard level - "Danger" or "Warning."
3. **Hazard Statements:** Describes specific risks.
4. **Precautionary Statements:** Instructions for safe use and disposal.
5. **Supplemental Information:** Provides manufacturer and product details.



Employee Rights under HazCom Chemicals

HazCom rights involve understanding chemicals, engaging in safety practices, and freely addressing safety concerns for a safer workplace.



Right to Know



Right to Access Information



Right to Protection



Right to Participate



Right to Refuse Unsafe Work



Right to Non-Retaliation

Best Practices for Handling Hazardous

Understanding how to handle hazardous chemicals safely is essential for everyone. Here are a few practices:

- ✓ **Know Chemicals:** Understand and identify chemicals via labels and data sheets.
- ✓ **Protective Gear:** Use and understand appropriate safety equipment.
- ✓ **Chemical Storage:** Store chemicals correctly following specific guidelines.
- ✓ **Manage Spills:** Be prepared for and know how to handle chemical spills.
- ✓ **Dispose Correctly:** Follow chemical-specific disposal rules and use appropriate containers.



HazCom Resources You Should Know

- 1 **Labels and Safety Data Sheet:** Key for chemical data and handling.
- 2 **Accessible Training:** Covers chemical safety and handling.
- 3 **Emergency Procedures:** Outlines spill response and safety actions.
- 4 **Safety Resources:** Includes supervisors, OSHA, NIOSH, and committees.
- 5 **Emergency Contacts:** Provides access to Poison Control and emergency services.

Staying Compliant with Hazcom

A Checklist for HazCom Compliance

HazCom compliance promotes safety through education on chemical hazards and handling.

- ✓ **Employee Training:** Regular training, label and SDS access, HazCom updates
- ✓ **Chemical Labeling:** Clear labels with hazard details, multilingual if necessary, updated regularly.
- ✓ **SDS Management:** Available SDS for each chemical, with comprehensive hazard details.
- ✓ **HazCom Program:** Documented compliance strategy, and handling of nonroutine tasks.

Updates in HazCom Standards

HazCom Standards act as a workplace safety net, clarifying risks associated with various chemicals and substances.

- ✓ **Labeling:** More precise chemical identifiers and clearer hazard warnings.
- ✓ **Pictograms:** Visual hazard indicators.
- ✓ **SDS Enhancements:** Comprehensive details for safe handling and emergency procedures.
- ✓ **SDS Content:** Sections on usage, risks, and chemical composition.

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Instructional Design
Train the Trainer



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