



**COCHISE COUNTY**  
**HAZARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM**  
***OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.1200***

**COCHISE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

**Hazard Communication Program**

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# HAZARD COMMUNICATION (HAZCOM) PROGRAM

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## **PURPOSE**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard 29 CFR 1910.1200 is based on the concept that employees have both a need and a right to know the identities and hazards of chemicals they work with during their employment. Employees also need to understand the protective measures to prevent chemical exposure and how to avoid adverse health effects.

The Hazard Communication (HazCom) program includes chemical hazard classification, safety data sheets (SDS), container labeling, employer-written programs, site-specific chemical inventories and SDS binders, and employee information and training.

The Cochise County written HazCom Program establishes responsibilities for departments, supervisors, and employees regarding hazardous chemicals. This document addresses only the general measures necessary to achieve OSHA compliance. Implementation of the HazCom Program requires that each County department covered by this program develop site-specific plans for the chemical hazards encountered in each work area.

A template for completing a site-specific plan is available from the Program Administrator. To avoid repetition of information, that template does not include the same level of detail as this HazCom Program. Department Safety Coordinators (DSC) should refer to this program to ensure full compliance.

## **PROGRAM AVAILABILITY**

Copies of the County's written HazCom Program and OSHA's HazCom Standard are readily available from the Department DSC, by emailing [RiskManagement@cochise.az.gov](mailto:RiskManagement@cochise.az.gov), or calling Risk Management at 520 432-9830. The program is also available on the Cochise County website on the Risk Management page. Applicable SDS's, Department specific chemical lists and an online search can be found on the County's online SDS database at <http://cochisecounty-az.newlook.safepersonnelsds.com/>.

## **SCOPE AND APPLICATION**

This program applies to all Cochise County employees and contractors at risk of occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals present in Cochise County worksites under either normal conditions or in a foreseeable emergency.

## **PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Cochise County Administration**

- Take every reasonable precaution to provide work environments free from recognizable hazards.

### **Program Administrator (County Risk Management)**

- Establish the County's written HazCom Program and revise as necessary
- Coordinate an effective HazCom training program
- Function as a resource for Department Coordinators on HazCom topics
- Maintain employee medical records specific to this program for the duration of employment plus 30 years as required by OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1020(d)(1)(i).
- Annually evaluate the effectiveness of the written program and the departmental plans

### **Department Director/Elected Official**

- Oversee the departmental HazCom program
- Assign as DSC an employee(s) to be responsible for implementation of the HazCom program in that department.
- Provide the DSC(s) with adequate time and resources to implement the program
- Provide appropriate exposure controls as feasible to minimize or eliminate hazards

- Enforce compliance with this program, including appropriate disciplinary action for any County employee failing to follow the requirements

### **Department Safety Coordinator(DSC)**

- Complete a site-specific safety plan for each work site
- Create site-specific Chemical Inventories
- Maintain Safety Data Sheets (SDS's) at each departmental work site in the online database
- Maintain Safety Data Sheets (SDS's) binders at each departmental work site where applicable
- Ensure that all hazardous chemicals are properly labeled
- Coordinate appropriate protective measures, include engineering controls, work practices, and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) for each affected employee
- Ensure that each employee receives HazCom training consisting of both general and site-specific chemical hazard information
- Provide on-going training when new chemical hazards are introduced and/or when new/transferred employees may encounter chemical hazards
- Inform employees of chemical hazards they may encounter due to contractor activities; inform contractors of chemical hazards they may encounter on department work sites
- Conduct on-going work site evaluations and recordkeeping reviews to ensure that the written plan is effectively implemented
- Annually review each site-specific plan with the Program Administrator

### **Employees Working with or Around Hazardous Chemicals**

- Use hazardous chemicals in accordance with SDS and container label instructions
- Inform supervisor of hazardous working conditions or work practices, and of incidents and near- misses. Inform supervisor if using any chemical without adequate training.
- Participate in general and site-specific HazCom training
- Label containers appropriately when transferring hazardous chemicals to secondary containers

## **CHEMICAL INVENTORY**

Creating a Chemical Inventory is the initial step in implementing a site-specific HazCom plan as it establishes a list of all materials for which an SDS must be maintained. The inventory must be updated as SDS's are updated, chemicals are substituted or no longer used, or new chemicals are brought on site. Each DSC will also annually verify the accuracy of the list.

The DSC will identify and list in the Chemical Inventory all hazardous chemicals used in each work site. Methods may include actual inventory, review of purchase orders, or other equally effective means. Each DSC will keep a copy of the chemical inventory attached to the site-specific written HazCom Program where it is accessible to all employees during work hours.

Chemicals are often thought of as being only liquids in containers, but the HazCom program covers chemicals in all forms, whether contained or not, including liquids, solids, gases, vapors, fumes, and mists. Contaminants generated in the workplace, such as welding fumes and dusts from sawing/sanding, are also potential sources of exposure and must be listed on the chemical inventory.

A chemical is not covered by the HazCom program if it is not hazardous or if there is no exposure potential or if the chemical is exempt. Consumer products are exempt if they are used in the workplace for the purpose intended by the chemical manufacturer, and the use results in a frequency and duration of exposure not greater than that which could reasonably be experienced by consumers. Ask the Program Administrator regarding questions about specific items.

The primary responsibility for classifying chemical hazards is on the manufacturers who are required to

determine whether the chemicals they produce are physical or health hazards. If a chemical meets any of the hazard criteria, the manufacturer must label the container with hazard information. Cochise County does not manufacture any hazardous chemicals. Hazardous chemicals, unless exempted, must be included in the chemical inventory.

Every manufacturer uses the same method to determine chemical hazards, based on 10 pre-defined health hazard classifications, 16 physical hazard classifications, and several sub-categories for each of those. Additionally, OSHA created a class of chemicals called "hazard not otherwise classified" (HNOC). OSHA defines a hazardous chemical as any chemical that is a physical hazard, a health hazard or an HNOC.

- Physical Hazard - chemical that is a combustible liquid, compressed gas, explosive, flammable, organic peroxide, pyrophoric, unstable (reactive), and/or combustible dust
- Health Hazard - chemical that causes acute or chronic health effects in exposed employees, including carcinogens, toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, neurotoxins, agents that damage lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes, and/or simple asphyxiant

## **CONTAINER LABELING**

Labels provide an immediate visual warning of the hazardous effects of the chemical in the container and a link to more detailed information, such as the Safety Data Sheet.

The label on a classified hazardous chemical must include:

- Product identifier
- Manufacturer information
- Signal word ("Warning" or "Danger")
- Hazard Pictogram
- Hazard Statement(s)
- Precautionary Statement(s)

OR

A combination of the above that, along with the SDS, will provide employees with specific information regarding the physical and health hazards of the chemical.

Cochise County labels are legible and prominently displayed, though their sizes and colors may vary. Each label we affix to a chemical container will have the product identifier, and words, pictures and/or symbols that provide general hazard information and are supported with training or information on specific physical and health hazards of the chemical.

GHS requires that chemical manufacturers and importers use 8 pictograms to convey the health and physical hazards of a chemical (the 9<sup>th</sup> GHS pictogram is environmental toxicity, which is not under OSHA jurisdiction). The only required color for labels is the red border around the pictogram.

Because the product identifier is found on the label, the SDS, and our chemical inventory, the product identifier links these three sources of information, permitting cross-referencing. The product identifier used by the supplier may be a common or trade name, a chemical name, or a number. Employees are advised that label information can be verified by referring to the corresponding SDS.

## **SECONDARY CONTAINERS**

When a chemical is transferred to another container, the new or secondary container must be labeled with the same information required for the label on the original container. Acceptable methods to label as secondary container include:

- Applying a photocopy of the original label to the secondary container
- Applying a duplicate label provided by the manufacturer
- Applying a legible handwritten label (permanent ink)

If employees transfer chemicals from a labeled container to a portable container that is intended only for their immediate use, no labels are required on the portable container. However, the best practice is to always label secondary containers. Signs, placards, batch tickets, or printed operating procedures may be used in place of labels on tanks and other individual stationary containers.

### GHS Label Pictograms



**Oxidizer**



**Flammable**



**Corrosive**



**Explosive**



**Gas Under Pressure**



**Acute Toxicity**



**Irritant**



**Chronic Health Hazard**



**Environmental Impact  
(not OSHA jurisdiction)**

## **SAFETY DATA SHEETS (SDS)**

The SDS is a detailed information sheet prepared by the chemical manufacturer which describes the properties and hazards of the chemical, as well as precautions and emergency procedures. Site-specific SDS's shall be readily available to employees working at that site and may be obtained by viewing the site's SDS binder, by accessing the County's SDS database online at <http://cochisecounty-az.newlook.safepersonnelsds.com/> and selecting the appropriate department, or by asking any departmental supervisor of a particular work site. New products must be cleared by the DSC, who will also ensure that employees are aware of the hazards of new chemicals and protective measures to take.

### **SDS FORMAT:**

- Section 1: Product identification
- Section 2: Hazard(s) identification
- Section 3: Composition/ingredient information
- Section 4: First aid measures
- Section 5: Fire-fighting measures
- Section 6: Accidental release measures
- Section 7: Handling and storage
- Section 8: Exposure control/personal protection
- Section 9: Physical and chemical properties
- Section 10: Stability and reactivity
- Section 11: Toxicological information
- Section 12: Ecological information
- Section 13: Disposal considerations
- Section 14: Transport information
- Section 15: Regulatory information
- Section 16: Other information, including date of preparation or last revision

Note: Sections 12 through 15 are not under the jurisdiction of OSHA

### **SDS MAINTENANCE**

The County maintains SDS's in the online Cochise County SDS Site; an online program powered by Vector Solutions. The Program Administrator will act as the software administrator for this site. The DSC will maintain the SDS's for their Department in the system and keep SDS binders current. The DSC will check least annually to ensure the presence of a current SDS for each chemical on the chemical inventory.

For work performed at remote locations or for chemicals housed on work vehicles or needed to perform a specific work task, the SDS should be printed out and carried by the employee(s) until the work is completed or the chemical is removed from the work vehicle.

### **NON-ROUTINE TASKS & EMERGENCIES INVOLVING HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS**

Employees may be required to perform non-routine tasks (i.e., infrequent cleaning operations, maintenance activities, special projects, etc.) during which they may encounter hazardous chemicals.

Prior to the start of a non-routine project, the DSC, or a supervisor competent in HazCom and PPE will provide training for each affected employee, to include:

- Specific hazards of the materials that may be used during the activity
- Exposure control measures to be used, including ventilation, air monitoring, buddy systems, emergency rescue procedures, etc.
- Protective measures the employee can use such as PPE

- Actions to take in the event of foreseeable emergencies (spills, fire, power outages, etc.)

## **CONTRACTORS**

The DSC for a specific department will:

- Advise contractors of their responsibility to provide SDS's for all hazardous chemicals brought onto Cochise County property
- Provide contractors with information about:
  - Hazardous chemicals the contractor may encounter on Cochise County property
  - The labeling system in use
  - Protective measures to take
  - Safe handling procedures
  - Location and availability of the chemical inventory and the SDS's

## **BUILDING-RELATED HAZARDS**

Contractors and Facilities Management staff perform most of the renovation work in Cochise County buildings. However, employees from other departments may also need to disturb installed building materials for various purposes, so this information applies universally. Obtain clearance from management before disturbing asbestos or lead-based paint. When using power tools on silica- containing materials, use dust control measures, prohibit dry sweeping, and use only vacuums with high efficiency (HEPA) filters.

## **EMPLOYEE INFORMATION AND TRAINING**

Each Cochise County employee who works with or is potentially exposed to hazardous chemicals will receive initial general training and periodic site-specific training on the HazCom standard and the safe use of those chemicals. Training shall occur when:

- The employee is re-assigned to a different work area
- A new hazard is introduced into the work area
- The OSHA HazCom standard changes
- An employee demonstrates that he/she is not compliant with the program requirements

The DSC will maintain written training documentation for at least the duration of employment of each trainee. Employee training record forms for general and site-specific HazCom trainings are available from the Program Administrator.

### **General HazCom Training**

The Program Administrator will provide general HazCom training for Cochise County employees at the time of hire, to include the following topics:

- A summary of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, its location and availability
- A summary of the Cochise County written program, its location and availability
- Properties of hazardous materials; methods to detect a chemical presence
- Physical and health hazards of chemicals
- Chemical container label elements and use
- Contents, order and use of chemical Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- General procedures to protect against chemical hazards (i.e., engineering controls, work practice controls, personal protective equipment-PPE)
- Accessing a work site chemical inventory, SDS or additional information about a chemical

### **Site-Specific HazCom Training**

Either before or at the time an employee is assigned to work with a hazardous chemical, the Department Coordinator will provide training focused on the chemical hazards that employees may encounter at that specific work site. Additional training shall be provided when a new hazard is introduced into the work area.

Site-specific training will include, at a minimum:

- A review of the site-specific HazCom plan
- Location and accessibility of the SDS's, chemical inventory and written plans



- Details of the department's labeling system, including labeling supplies
- Hazards of the specific chemicals to which employees may be exposed
- Methods and observations to detect the presence of a hazardous chemical
- Explanation of routine and any non-routine tasks involving hazardous chemicals
- Review of container labels and SDS for the chemicals used
- Emergency procedures involving hazardous chemicals, including:
  - Evacuation to safe areas
  - Location & use of eyewash & safety showers
  - First aid kits, fire extinguishers, spill kits, etc.
- Protective measures to reduce exposure, including:
  - Engineering controls (ventilation, exhaust, etc.)
  - Work practices (substitution of safer chemicals, buddy system, etc.)
  - PPE (specify type, location, use, limitations, maintenance)

## **RECORDKEEPING**

Training is recorded in the SafePersonnel online training database. Risk Management will develop a plan to ensure the continuity of recordkeeping when a supervisor leaves or is reassigned, as he/she is responsible for the following:

### **Training Records**

Maintain records of General and Site-Specific HazCom training for at least the duration of the employee's tenure with Cochise County. Best practice is to maintain the records for 30 years plus the duration of employment.

### **Chemical Inventory**

Maintain for at least 30 years, per the Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.1020(d)(1)(ii)(B). Annually review, sign and date the active Chemical Inventory.