Hazard Communication (Worker Right to Know)

As a UW employee, you have the right to know about hazards to which you may be exposed as part of your work assignment. The University’s Hazard Communication Program is described in the UW Administrative Policy Statement 12.5 on the Web at www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/APS/12.05.html. For more information, ask your supervisor or contact the UW Environmental Health and Safety Department (EH&S) at (206) 543-7262.

Labels

Are all chemical containers in your workplace clearly labeled with essential safety information?

Original containers must be labeled with the:

* Identity of the hazardous chemical(s),
* Appropriate hazard warnings, and
* Manufacturer’s/Distributor’s name and address

Containers into which chemicals are transferred must be labeled with the identity of the hazardous chemical(s) and health and physical hazard warnings.

Labels and training are available from your supervisor or EH&S.

MSDSs

Is there a material safety data sheet (MSDS) for each chemical used in your workplace?

Material Safety Data Sheets provide the following information:

* Health and physical hazards
* Detection and personal protection
* First aid and spill clean-up
* Special precautions and more

MSDSs can be obtained from your supervisor, EH&S, or the campus online database, MyChem. ¹

Training

Have you received the hazard communication training you need?

A combination of hazard communication training resources is available to you as a University employee.

* For most employees, brochures, regularly scheduled training courses, and new employee orientation are available to provide basic hazard communication information.
* Some employees, including laboratory staff, need specialized training prior to handling certain regulated hazardous materials.
* All staff receive specific hazard information from their supervisor or a departmental trainer.

Contact your supervisor or EH&S about hazard communication training programs and audio visual resources appropriate for your needs.

¹ MyChem is a campus network database containing chemical inventories, MSDSs, and a surplus chemical exchange. Access to MyChem is free to University employees. To set up an account call EH&S at 206-616-4046. Access to MSDSs ONLY can be made without an account by logging into http://mychem.ehs.washington.edu with a UWNNetID.