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# Mandated OSHA HCS Training Starts Right Here

You may have heard about OSHA's new revised Hazard Communication Standard, and you should have heard by now that pest control companies are required to train technicians on certain aspects of this revised Standard by December 1, 2013. OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, last revised in 1994, addresses exposure to hazardous chemicals in the workplace and requires that employers communicate information to their workers. Recently, OSHA has revised its standard to be more in line with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System (GHS) which is an international system for labeling and classifying hazardous products.

The new Hazard Communication Standard will be phased in over the next few years, but OSHA is mandating that companies train their workers by December on (1) the label changes for non-pesticide chemicals, and (2) the new Safety Data Sheet (SDS) format for all chemicals, including pesticides. OSHA wants this training done early in the phase-in process since technicians may already be seeing new labels and SDSs associated with the chemicals they use.

*NOTE: OSHA is incorporating these label changes for non-pesticide chemicals. EPA regulates pesticides and is not requiring these changes on pesticide labels. OSHA, however, regulates all Safety Data Sheets and you will see the changes on the SDSs for all chemicals, including pesticides. Expect some confusion.*

## **The main changes in the new Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) are:**

1. **Hazard Classification** - There are now more specific criteria to classify health hazards, physical hazards, and mixtures to ensure that this information is consistent from one manufacturer to another.

2. **Labels** - The look of labels on non-pesticides will change to include a harmonized (that's a fancy word for "universal") signal word and a pictogram to depict each hazard. Hazard statements and precautionary statements must also be provided. Although the label changes do not yet affect pesticides, OSHA requires that pest control technicians receive training on these changes applying to non-pesticide chemicals.

3. **Safety Data Sheets** - These used to be called MSDSs and they had 9 sections, more or less. Now, each chemical, including pesticides, will have a specific 16-section SDS.

Between now and December, most *Techletter* issues will feature an **OSHA Training** module page that will cover a required training module of the new Hazard Communication Standard. We'll attempt to explain the changes in a way that's easy to understand but we don't guarantee that our simplified version will satisfy all OSHA training requirements. You should plan on additional training, incorporating materials from OSHA and other sources. The National Pest Management Association has training assistance available for members at [www.npmapestworld.org](http://www.npmapestworld.org).

To get an overview of the worker training that's required, visit OSHA's main HCS website at <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>