Module Fact Sheet: HEALTH HAZARDS IN CONSTRUCTION—Hazard Communication

Module Introduction: The Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) provides information to workers and employers about various chemical hazards that exist in the workplace, and what protective measures they can take in order to prevent the adverse effects of such hazards.

This module gives you a basic understanding of how to deal with hazardous chemicals and how workers can prevent and protect themselves from chemical hazards.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the purpose of The Hazard Communication Standard (HCS).
- Discuss labels and Material Safety Data Sheets.
- Differentiate between physical and health hazards associated with hazardous chemicals.
- Distinguish between symbols used to identify hazards.
- State how to prepare and implement a written hazard communication program.
- Defend training and its importance.

Lesson Topic: Introduction to the Hazard Communication Standard

The simple idea behind the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) is that workers have both a need and a right to know about the hazards and identities of the chemicals they are exposed to when performing their tasks and duties. This standard covers both physical and health hazards.

As a worker or an employer there is a need and a right to know how you can perform job responsibilities safely. Hazard warning means any words, pictures, symbols, or combination thereof appearing on a label or other appropriate form of warning which conveys the specific physical and health hazards of the chemicals contained.

Lesson Topic: Labels, MSDSs, Symbols, Hazards, and Training

Labels are considered the most immediate source of information about chemicals and their hazard potential. It is obligatory that all hazardous chemical containers be labeled.
It is the employer’s responsibility to translate the information contained on the MSDS, into any understandable format, and convey that information about the hazards associated with working with any of the hazardous materials in the facility, before an employee is ever exposed to a hazard.