



Your Essential Connection

QuickTips

Developed by AIHA
in support of the OSHA Alliance



For Job Health and Safety on Introduction of New Chemicals into the Workplace

What to do today to protect worker health and prevent health hazards

What is the hazard?

- Many chemicals have the potential to cause injury, illness or damage, if used under certain conditions.
- The likelihood or chance that harm may occur depends on how and under what conditions the chemical is being used.
- Perform a process review to identify the hazards of the process and any new hazards being introduced.
- Be sure to consider physical hazards (for example: flammability, reactivity, explosivity) as well as health hazards.

How do I know there is a hazard?

- Check for chemical warning labels.
- Check the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provided by the manufacturer for physical, health and environmental hazards.
- Check the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) website (www.osha.gov) and search for the chemical name.

Why should I care?

- Your employees will be using this material for research, development or manufacturing and may be exposed to it.
- Ignoring the potential hazards can result in subjecting your workers or yourself to conditions that could lead to illness, injury or property damage.

What do I need to do?

Evaluation

- Obtain the MSDS from the chemical manufacture or distributor.
- Review the manufacturer's exposure control and protective measure recommendations and compare with your planned use of the chemical.
- If uncertain, contact a qualified professional, such as an industrial hygienist, to help you determine if your intended use of the chemical is safe.

Training

- Review the potential hazards of the chemical with the users of the chemical and also review protective measures required to use the chemical.
- Provide users with a copy of the MSDS.
- Train the operators on the chemical prior to their use and handling of the material.

Inspections

- Periodically observe how employees are working with the chemical and compare practices with the warning instructions in the MSDS.

Records

- Include the material's hazards and protective measures in the process documentation where it is used.

When do I need to do help?

**Personal
Protective
Equipment
(PPE)**

- **Identify PPE from the manufacturer's MSDS. If the information is not specific, contact the manufacturer for further information.**

When do I need more help?

- When there is inadequate data described in the MSDS or other documentation provided by the manufacturer.

Where can I get it?

- On line databases, such as the Hazardous Substance Database, as well as through your local AIHA section.
 - OSHA consultation services
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