

HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD DEADLINES RAPIDLY APPROACHING

Recent updates to the federal OSHA Hazard Communication Standard are bringing the US into alignment with the system used throughout the world to further enhance worker protection from hazards posed by working with chemicals. The new standard is referred to as the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS), and is intended to bring workers past the "Right to Know" about the products they work with to the "Right to Understand" the dangers of working with chemicals.

The GHS update to the Hazard Communicaiton standard carries a number of performance based deadlines:

December 1, 2013 (past) - employers to train employees on product labeling requirements and the new Safety Data Sheet (SDS) format

June 1, 2015 - manufacturers to complete hazard reviews of products and begin to revise/redistribute updated SDS's to end users

June 1, 2016 - employers to maintain an inventory of chemical products on hand plus provide employee access to updated SDS's.

The NFADA is working to get your dealership out in front of the new GHS requirements by:

- Providing employee training on the GHS standard through a combination of on-site training, monthly NFADA training, and a written overview of the new GHS standard designed for in-house training
- Availability of on-line GHS training as part of a comprehensive employee on-line training course
- On-line accessibility to current product Safety Data Sheets as part of NFADA SDS on-line offering

What actions should you take?

- Insure all employees that use or are exposed to chemical products in the workplace have completed Hazard Communication training including the GHS update, and that you have sufficient documentation to prove completion of training
- Determine a process for insuring receipt of and employee accessibility to new Safety Data Sheets as manufacturers begin to distribute them with your product orders
- Determine a process for archiving records of outdated Material Safety Data Sheets

You can anticipate a fair amount of work going forward to maintain compliance with the updated Hazard Communication standard. We at the NFADA look forward to assisting you by helping to maximize efficiency through our on-site and on-line offerings.

Please contact Dan Glinski for more information: dan@nfada.com or by phone 716-481-8925.