

Hazard Communication – The Written Program [29 CFR 1910.1200(e)]

One of the most-frequently cited OSHA violations year after year is the lack of an adequate written hazard communication program. According to the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, any employer whose employees could be exposed to hazardous chemicals in the workplace is required to develop and implement a written hazard communication program.

A written hazard communication program must include at least:

- A list of hazardous chemicals in the workplace or work areas
- Descriptions of and person responsible for the in-plant labeling system used
- Procedures and person responsible for obtaining, maintaining, and updating MSDSs
- Descriptions of employee training program, including non-routine tasks and unlabeled pipes, with procedures for new employees and new hazards
- Designation of person responsible for training employees
- Methods to make available for contractors MSDSs and information on labeling and emergency measures

The written hazard communication program could be in any format, as long as OSHA can determine that all required elements are covered and that employees and contractors are adequately informed of potential hazards.