

The Right-To-Know Law

"Sample"

Requirement of the Right-To-Know Law:

To train the staff in the purpose and content of the law.

- a. The purpose of the law is to create a safer and healthier workplace by providing employees with information about the chemicals they use.
- b. The content of the law focuses on the requirements for chemical information lists, material safety data sheets, labeling and training.

To understand the nature of the hazardous substances in the workplace.

Protection from the hazards in the work place.

How to obtain information on hazardous materials used in the workplace.

- a. Chemical Information Lists
- b. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

The employee's rights.

- a. Access to the chemical information list and MSDSs within one working day of a request.
- b. One copy of the requested information or the means to make a copy, without charge, within five working days.
- c. If employer fails to provide access to or a copy of the information about the hazardous chemical pursuant to the provisions of this law, an employee may refuse to work with the hazardous chemical.

CHEMICAL HAZARDS IN THE WORKPLACE: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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Right-to-Know Law

- a. Definition of Hazardous Chemical – Any substance that can contribute to injury from a skin rash to death.
- b. State of Maryland Law
- c. Train/Educate Employees

Types of Exposure (with examples)

- a. Volatile Materials – Vapors/fumes (Alcohols, toluene)
- b. Fine particles – Dusts/mists/aerosols (asbestos, ninhydrin, chromates)
- c. Flammable materials (Magnesium, ethyl ether)
- d. Compressed gases (O₂, H₂)
- e. Asphyxiants (H₂S)
- f. Radioactive materials (Thallium — beta source)

Routes of Entry into the Body

- a. Ingestion
- b. Inhalation
- c. Skin Absorption
- d. Injection – broken objects (sharp metal or glass)

Assessing the Hazard

- a. Exposure
 - Acute – fast
 - Delayed – slow
 - Chronic – slowest
- b. Damage (with examples of each type)
 - Corrosive poisons (Sulfuric acid)
 - Metabolic poisons (Heavy metals, HCN)
 - Mutagens/teratogens (Xylene, Formaldehyde)
 - Carcinogens (benzene, asbestos)

Reducing the Hazards – Lowering the Risks

- a. Awareness through education
- b. Lowering the exposure time
- c. Protective measures
 - Importance of personal habits (smoking/cosmetics/eating)

- Proper storage and disposal
- Equipment – ventilation – fume hoods – masks (dust) – gloves – consider permeability of solvent

Using the information on hazardous materials from:

- a. Chemical labels
- b. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- c. Reference Books
- d. MSDS Online-web-based vendor providing instant access to Material Safety Data Sheets and PGCPS inventory of Hazardous and Toxic Substances