

TAILGATE TALKS

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

A Hazard Communication (HAZCOM) program is designed to protect workers from chemical hazards in the workplace. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, requires employers to provide labels and safety data sheets for every hazardous chemical that is present in their workplace. Employers must also train their employees on the HAZCOM standard before they can begin work around chemical hazards. HAZCOM programs are particularly important in the oil and gas industry, where workers are regularly exposed to harmful, even potentially fatal chemical hazards.

HAZCOM CONTENTS

HAZCOM plans summarize the steps that the employer is taking to prevent workers from contacting hazardous chemicals. HAZCOM plans must include information about the labels and warnings used in the work environment, a list of all chemical hazards found in the workplace, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), training requirements, and the location of safety data sheets.

LABELING REQUIREMENTS

OSHA uses the Globally Harmonized System, or GHS, to classify and label chemicals. GHS labels must have pictograms, a hazard statement, a precautionary statement, a signal word, a product identifier, and the name, address, and telephone number of the manufacturer or importer. Sometimes, chemicals may be labeled with Department of Transportation (DOT) labels or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) labels. All workers must be trained on the labels used in their workplace before they can begin work around hazardous chemicals.

SAFETY DATA SHEETS

Although Labels provide a broad overview of a hazardous chemical's properties. For more in-depth information about the chemical, workers should consult the chemical's safety data sheet, or SDS. Validus Energy maintains Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals in the chemical inventory list at www.validus.energy under the "Right To Know" tab. The Validus Safety Data Sheets are all provided with the following information:

Chemical identification
Hazard identification
Composition/information on ingredients
First-aid measures
Transport information
Regulatory information

Fire-fighting measures
Accidental release measures
Handling and storage
Exposure controls & Personal Protection
Disposal considerations
Stability & reactivity

Personal protection
Physical & Chemical Properties
Ecological information
Toxicological information
Other information

Contractors who provide services to Validus Energy and who's employees work around chemicals are required to have a Hazard Communication Plan to protect their employees from chemical hazards.

HAZCOM plans must include labeling information, training programs, safety data sheets, a list of all chemicals used in the workplace, and appropriate PPE.

Validus energy maintains a Chemical
Inventory Log and Safety Data Sheets
for all known chemicals at
www.validus.energy under the RIGHT TO
KNOW tab. If you are aware of a
chemical that is not in the Chemical
Inventory, please complete a Chemical
SDS Request at Validus.energy



