

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Hazardous substance means a substance, material, or mixture which is likely to cause illness or injury by reason of being explosive, flammable, poisonous, corrosive, oxidizing, an irritant, or otherwise harmful. Hazardous substances, as identified by the Department of Industrial Relations, are listed in 8 CCR 339. (8 CCR 339, 5161)

Storage and Disposal of Chemicals

The Superintendent or designee shall adopt measures to ensure that hazardous substances on any district property are stored and disposed of properly in accordance with law. Such measures shall include, but are not limited to, the following: (8 CCR 5164)

1. Substances which react violently or evolve toxic vapors or gases when mixed, or which in combination become toxic, flammable, explosive, or otherwise hazardous, shall be separated from each other in storage by distance, partitions, secondary containment, or otherwise so as to preclude accidental contact between them.
2. Hazardous substances shall be stored in containers which are chemically inert to and appropriate for the type and quantity of the hazardous substance.
3. Containers of hazardous substances shall not be stored in such locations or manner as to result in physical damage to or deterioration of the container or where they are exposed to heat sufficient to rupture the container or to cause leakage.
4. Containers used to package a substance which gives off toxic, poisonous, corrosive, asphyxiant, suffocant, or anesthetic fumes, gases, or vapors in hazardous amounts, excluding small quantities of such materials kept in closed containers or materials kept in tank cars or trucks, shall not be stored in locations where it could be reasonably anticipated that persons would be exposed.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly remove and dispose of all chemicals whose estimated shelf life has elapsed. (Education Code 49411)

Hazard Communication Program

In order to control the handling of hazardous substances and provide information to employees in accordance with California's Hazard Communication Regulation (Title 8, 5194), the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the hazard communication program outlined below is carried out. The written hazard communication program shall be available upon request to all employees and their designated representatives. (Code of Regulations, Title 8, 5194)

Hazardous Substances (continued)

The following materials are exempted from the Hazard Communication Program and this district regulation: hazardous wastes; tobacco products; wood and wood products; manufactured articles; food, drugs and cosmetics used by employees.

1. Container Labeling

Except for consumer products, pesticides, alcoholic beverages or food, drug and additive products which are already labeled in compliance with federal law, no container of hazardous substance shall be accepted by schools or the district unless labeled by the supplier with the following information:

- a. Identity of the hazardous substance(s).
- b. Hazard warning statements.
- c. Name and address of the chemical manufacturer or importer.

Whenever hazardous substances are transferred from their original containers to other containers, the secondary containers shall likewise be labeled with the identity and hazard warning statement, unless the substances are intended only for the immediate use of the employee who performs the transfer.

2. Safety Data Sheets

Upon receiving a hazardous substance or mixture, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the manufacturer or importer has also furnished a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) as required by law. If the SDS is missing or obviously incomplete, the Superintendent or designee shall within seven working days of noting the missing or incomplete information request a new SDS from the manufacturer or importer. If a response is not received within 25 working days, the Superintendent or designee shall send a copy of the district's written inquiry to the California Occupational Safety and Health Division (Cal/OSHA).

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain copies of SDS for all hazardous substances and ensure that they are available to all affected employees during working hours. He/she shall review incoming SDS for new and significant health or safety information and shall disseminate this information to affected employees.

Hazardous Substances (continued)

3. Employee Information and Training

Employees shall receive in-service training on hazardous substances in their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new hazard is introduced into their work area. This training shall provide:

- a. An overview of the requirements of California's Hazard Communication Regulation (Title 8, 5194), including employee rights described therein.
- b. The location, availability and content of the district's written hazard communication program.
- c. Information as to any operations in the employees' work area where hazardous substances are present.
- d. The physical and health effects of the hazardous substances in the work area.
- e. Techniques and methods of observation that may determine the presence or release of hazardous substances in the work area.
- f. Methods by which employees can take to protect themselves from exposure to these hazardous substances, including specific procedures the district has implemented to protect employees, such as appropriate work practices, emergency procedures, and personal protective equipment to be used.
- g. Emergency and first aid procedures to follow if exposed to the hazardous substance(s).
- h. Instruction on how to read labels and review MSDS for appropriate information.

4. List of Hazardous Substances

For specific information about the hazardous substances known to be present in the district and schools, employees may consult the MSDS sheets maintained at the district office.

5. Hazardous Non-routine Tasks

Should employees be required to perform hazardous nonroutine tasks, they shall first receive information about the specific hazards to which they may be exposed during this activity and the protective/safety measures which must be used. They shall also receive information about emergency procedures and the measures the district has taken to lessen the hazards, including ventilation, respirators, and the presence of another employee.

Hazardous Substances (continued)

6. Hazardous Substances in Unlabeled Pipes

Before starting to work on unlabeled pipes, employees shall contact their supervisors for information as to the hazardous substance(s) contained in the pipes, the potential hazards, and safety precautions which must be taken.

7. Informing Contractors

To ensure that outside contractors and their employees work safely in district buildings and schools, the Superintendent or designee shall inform these contractors of hazardous substances which are present on the site and precautions that employees may take to lessen the possibility of exposure. It shall be the contractor's responsibility to disseminate this information to his/her employees and subcontractors.

Chemical Hygiene Plan

The district's chemical hygiene plan shall address exposure to hazardous chemicals in school laboratories and shall include the following components: (8 CCR 5191)

1. Standard operating procedures relevant to safety and health considerations to be followed when laboratory work involves the use of hazardous chemicals
2. Criteria that the district will use to determine and implement control measures to reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals, including engineering controls, the use of personal protective equipment, and hygiene practices
3. A requirement that protective equipment comply with state regulations and that specific measures be taken to ensure proper and adequate performance of such equipment
4. Provision of specified information at the time of an employee's initial assignment to a work area where hazardous chemicals are present and prior to assignments involving new exposure situations

Hazardous Substances (continued)

5. Provision of specified employee training in accordance with the schedule determined by the Superintendent or designee
6. The circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure, or activity shall require prior approval of the Superintendent or designee before implementation
7. Provisions for medical consultations and examinations whenever there is evidence, as specified, that the employee may have been exposed to a hazardous chemical
8. Designation of an employee, who is qualified by training or experience, to serve as the district's chemical hygiene officer to provide technical guidance in the development and implementation of the chemical hygiene plan
9. Provisions for additional employee protection for work with particularly hazardous substances, as specified

The plan shall be readily available to employees and employee representatives, and, upon request, to Cal/OSHA. (8 CCR 5191)

The Superintendent or designee shall review and evaluate the effectiveness of the chemical hygiene plan at least annually and shall update it as necessary. (8 CCR 5191)