

## HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

**Cautionary Notice 2013-14:** AB 110 (Ch. 20, Statutes of 2013) amended Government Code 17581.5 to relieve districts from the obligation, until July 1, 2014, to perform any activities that are deemed to be reimbursable state mandates under that section. As a result, certain provisions of the following policy or administrative regulation that reflect those requirements may be suspended.

*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.

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)

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

### Hazard Communication Program

The district's written hazard communication program shall include at least the components listed below and shall be available upon request to all employees and their designated

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representatives. The program shall apply to any hazardous substance which is known to be present in the workplace in such a manner that employees may be exposed under normal conditions of use or in a reasonably foreseeable emergency resulting from workplace operations. (8 CCR 5194)

**1. Container Labeling**

No container of hazardous substance, unless exempted by law, shall be accepted by the district or any district school unless labeled, tagged, or marked by the supplier with the identity of the hazardous substance, hazard warning statements, and the name and address of the chemical manufacturer or importer. No label on an incoming container shall be removed or intentionally defaced unless the container is immediately marked with the required information.

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 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). (8 CCR 5194)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain the required SDS for each hazardous substance in the workplace and shall ensure that it is readily accessible to employees in their work area during working hours. The SDS may be maintained in paper copy, electronically, or through other means, provided that employees have immediate access and understand how to use the alternative system.

**3. Employee Information and Training**

Employees shall receive information and 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. The information and training shall include, but are not limited to, the following topics: (8 CCR 5194)

- a. The requirements of 8 CCR 5194, including employee rights described therein

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- b. The location and availability of the district's written hazard communication program, including the list of hazardous materials and all SDS
- c. Any operations in the work area where hazardous substances are present
- d. The physical and health effects of the hazardous substances in the work area
- e. Methods and observations that may be used to detect the presence or release of hazardous substances in the work area
- f. Measures that employees can take to protect themselves from exposure to 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. How to read and use the labels and SDS

*(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)*

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*

*(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)*

*(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)*

### 4. List of Hazardous Substances

The written hazard communication program shall include a list of the hazardous substances known to be present in the workplace as a whole or for individual work areas. (8 CCR 5194)

### 5. Hazardous Nonroutine Tasks

When employees are required to perform hazardous nonroutine tasks or to work on unlabeled pipes that contain hazards, 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, such as ventilation, respirators, other personal protective equipment, and/or the presence of another employee. They shall also receive information about emergency procedures to follow if accidentally exposed to the hazardous substance.

### 6. Information to Contractors

To ensure that outside contractors and their employees work safely in district facilities, the Superintendent or designee shall inform contractors of hazardous substances which are present on the site and precautions that they 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.