

## USE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

1743

(November 1991)

Before an employee uses any hazardous material, the supervisor must decide whether use of the material is necessary and consider using other materials that would be less hazardous to the employee. The container label should indicate if the material is hazardous, therefore requiring a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). The seller of the product must provide an MSDS upon request. The MSDS information may be reproduced on the product label.

Employees have the right to know about any hazardous substances in their work environment. The supervisor of an employee who may be exposed to a product requiring an MSDS must do the following:

- Give the employee a written explanation of the harmful nature of the material before it is used.
- Provide the necessary protection to avoid contacting the material (e.g., exhaust ventilation, respiratory, eye and skin protection, etc.).
- Upon request, give a copy of the MSDS, within seven working days, to the employee or a designated agent or physician.
- File a project safety work plan and send a copy, including the MSDS, through channels to the Unit Safety Coordinator or other designated person. This plan will be retained in the hazardous material study file.
- Provide and document training in the safe use of the material.

Training methods should emphasize direct communication between supervisors and co-workers instead of relying on written handouts. The supervisor should conduct refresher training on a regular basis in order to review any new hazardous substances and to reemphasize past training sessions.

If the supervisor is not familiar with the substance(s), then a more qualified person should conduct the training.

## **TRAINING FOR MSDS PRODUCTS** (November 1991)

**1743.1**

Training for Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) products will include the following:

- An explanation of the MSDS.
- An explanation of the associated short- and long-range health effects of the material.
- Explanations of precautions for handling the material including necessary personal protection equipment or other safety precautions to prevent or minimize exposures.
- Explanations of the emergency procedures for spills including containment, decontamination, disposal, and first aid.
- An explanation that each employee has the right to refuse to use the material if the requirements outlined above are not met.
- An explanation of where the MSDS file is located and how to receive an informational copy.
- An explanation that no employee may be discriminated against for asking for an MSDS.

Unit managers will designate a person to be responsible for the MSDS file and inventory of hazardous materials used at each facility. This person will review incoming data sheets for new and significant health and safety information and provide training on any new information to the affected employees.

## **RESTRICTIONS ON INHALATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS** (November 1991)

**1743.2**

Personnel should not spray paint without meeting one of the following conditions:

- They carry on the operation in an approved paint spray booth supplied with forced air ventilation with a minimum air flow of 100 feet per minute across the face of the booth (see CCR, Title 8, Article 137, Spray Coating Operations).
- They carry on the operation in an open, outside area (with the wind blowing at their back), using a chemical cartridge-type respirator approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for the material being sprayed. Local air quality management regulations must be met.

No employee will be required to work in a confined space when using any solvent, paint, or other material giving off vapors, gases (usually detected by their odors), fumes, or dust without using a NIOSH approved air-supplied respirator and a safety harness with a lifeline ([see Section 1749, Confined Spaces](#)).

Employees using chemical paint removers will perform removal operations in an approved paint spray booth or will equip themselves with a NIOSH approved air-supplied respirator (if in a confined space) or an approved cartridge respirator (if in an open area with good general ventilation). Most paint removers contain highly toxic materials, such as benzol (benzene) or chlorinated hydrocarbons.

Employees should not weld or heat beryllium, fluoride, lead, mercury compound, zinc (galvanized metal), chromium, or cadmium coated surfaces unless a local exhaust system is discharging toxic fumes away from the employees' breathing zones. This same rule also applies to fluxes containing the aforementioned materials. Employees may weld on hazardous materials outside of a building if they wear NIOSH approved toxic fume respirators and keep the wind at their backs.

All other welding areas must have good general cross ventilation to reduce the concentration of fumes.

## **SAFE USE OF GASOLINE**

**1743.3**

(November 1991)

Supervisors will ensure that gasoline is not used for cleaning purposes. Gasoline and other flammable liquids must be handled, used, and stored in a manner that will not permit accidents to occur. Personnel should never carry gasoline or other fuels in a backpack, but instead by hand. Further, personnel should use gasoline only as a fuel for internal combustion engines, unless a special project safety work plan is developed requiring it for another use. ([See Section 1750, Project Work and Activities](#))

## **PESTICIDES**

**1743.4**

(November 1991)

Employees handling pesticides designated by the Environmental Protection Agency's required label as a Category I or II pesticide must either be certified through a training program that meets the regulations of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in CCR, Title 3, Article 23, or be supervised by someone meeting these certification requirements. Employees must also complete refresher training annually. Training on pesticide handling must be documented in employee's training records.

## **EXPLOSIVES**

**1743.5**

(November 1991)

Employees handling explosives must have a license from CAL-OSHA. Employees performing blasting operations must have a blaster's license (see CCR, Title 8, Group 18).

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS STORAGE AND HANDLING**

**1743.6**

(November 1991)

Facilities should store chemicals separately from other materials in a well-ventilated location with good drainage. In order to avoid mistaking poisonous material for food, persons working in kitchen or pantry areas should establish a special storage area for poisons and post the contents. Facilities should maintain only sufficient poisonous, corrosive, or flammable chemicals to meet current needs and should avoid prolonged use of such material. Regulations regarding the storage of hazardous materials (amounts, types, etc.) may vary depending on location. Unit personnel responsible for hazardous materials should consult the Technical Services Procedures Handbook and applicable local regulatory agencies such as pollution control districts, water quality control agencies, and city, county, and state health departments. Personnel should also follow the directions in the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provided by the vendor.

Whenever possible, material should be stored in the original container. Otherwise, containers should have labels to indicate the contents and whether they are poisonous, flammable, or corrosive. Such new labels should include all information from the label of the original container and should display warning signs indicating the necessary precautions for stored chemicals.

Supervisors should post signs to identify each poisonous material storage location and lock the storage area to prevent unauthorized use of the materials.

## **DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

**1743.7**

(November 1991)

Regulations regarding the disposal of hazardous materials (amounts, types, etc.) may vary depending on location. The unit personnel responsible for hazardous materials should consult the Technical Services Procedures Handbook and appropriate local regulatory agencies such as pollution control districts, water quality control agencies, and city, county, and state health departments.

Hazardous materials, including those capable of producing poisonous, corrosive, flammable, or explosive materials, must not be flushed into drains but must be destroyed by someone trained in the disposal of chemicals. The Toxic Substance Control Division of the Department of Health Services has information for disposal methods or names of firms doing this work.

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)