



# SAFETY TALK

## Hazard Communication

Hazard Communication, also referred to as “HAZCOM” and “The Employee Right to Know Act” was developed to ensure that employers provide employees with important safety information for chemicals used in their workplace.

Hazard Communication requirements are aimed at reducing the risk of chemical-related occupational illnesses and injuries by making available specific information to help identify and evaluate hazardous chemicals in the workplace. Tools such as Container Labeling and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) assist employers in identifying and communicating these hazards.

An SDS is a fact sheet developed by the manufacturer that contains information on all of the hazards associated with a particular chemical. It also provides guidance on how to protect yourself from these hazards and emergency information/procedures in the event of an accident. You may obtain an SDS from the manufacturer or on-line at the EHS website. Personnel must be trained to be able to read an SDS and understand the hazards presented by various substances.

- The Right to Know policy can be found by calling EHS or on the EHS website.
- Familiarize yourself with chemical hazards in your workplace.
- Remember, an SDS must be available for every chemical used in the workplace.
- Every container used to store a chemical must be labeled.
- Read the label and SDS prior to using the chemical.
- When necessary, avoid contact with skin and eyes by utilizing the proper personal protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, etc.).
- Store each chemical in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
- DO NOT dispose of excess or waste in a drain or trash can.
- Unless directed by the manufacturer, cleaning agents should never be mixed with one another.
- When portioning chemicals into separate containers such as generic spray bottles, employees must label these containers with the chemical’s name and a hazard warning briefly describing the hazardous effects of the chemical. This includes terms such as “flammable” and “causes lung damage.”

EHS Website:

<https://ehs.stonybrook.edu/>

SDS Database:

<https://ehs.stonybrook.edu/resources/safety-data-sheet.php>

Date:	
Department:	
Supervisor (please print):	
Supervisor Signature:	
<b>Employee Participants:</b> **Please Print Clearly**	Signature