

HazCom and GHS Regulation Changes Impact Counties

Hazard Communications (HazCom) regulations and training requirements have changed significantly with the introduction of the Globalization Harmonized System (GHS). Although county employees may have received HazCom training in the past, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) training requirements have changed with the integration of GHS and HazCom, which means that updated employee training will be necessary.

The OSHA deadline for employee HazCom/GHS training is June 30, 2016. While counties don't fall under OSHA regulatory jurisdiction, CTSI uses OSHA and other federal regulations as best practices for evaluating and providing safety and risk management programs for county employees. CTSI urges all county pool members to also use these regulations for employee safety programs and related training.

The CTSI Loss Prevention Team has developed a two-hour HazCom/GHS training for county pool members. The training is designed for employees whose job tasks require use of potentially hazardous products, and for supervisors who are responsible for maintaining the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) logs for products used in county operations. Examples are: cleaning agents, solvents, glues, paint, paint thinners, degreasers, gasoline, diesel fuel, used motor oil, etc.

Affected departments include facilities, janitorial, building and grounds maintenance, road and bridge, fleet maintenance, landfill and fairgrounds.

The integration of HazCom/GHS also includes requirements for county-specific written HazCom programs, GHS-compliant product labels, conversion to Safety Data Sheets (SDS), and GHS-compliant SDS inventory.

What This Means for Counties

County pool members interested in HazCom/GHS employee training or assistance with program development, please contact CTSI's Loss Prevention Team at 303-861-0507.