



## **Hazard Communication Program**

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## **Hazard Communication Program**

### **PURPOSE**

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) (29 CFR 1910.1200) provides both the employers and employees the right to know and right to understand the hazards and identities of chemicals that are used in the workplace. In accordance with OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (HCS), Skidmore College has developed a Hazard Communication Program (HCP) to ensure the transmittal of information regarding chemical hazards is established by means of proper container labeling, employee training and safety data sheets. This program is designed to assist College departments and other working groups to meet the requirements of the OSHA HCS.

This HCP applies to all Skidmore College departments and employees at risk of occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals present in the workplace. The HCP applies to any hazardous chemical that is known to be present in the workplace in such a manner that employees may be exposed under normal working conditions of use or in a foreseeable emergency.



Teaching Assistants

Geoscience	Administrative, Technical and Professional Staff Student Employees Managers
Health & Exercise Sciences	Administrative, Technical and Professional Staff Student Employees Managers
Neuroscience	Administrative, Technical and Professional Staff Student Employees Managers
Psychology	Administrative, Technical and Professional Staff Student Employees Managers
Tang	Administrative, Technical and Professional Staff Student Employees Managers
Theater	Administrative, Technical and Professional Staff Professors Managers

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each department listed above has overall responsibility for administering this program, including the following:

- Developing, implementing and evaluating the Hazard Communication Program annually to ensure compliance.
- Providing general information and training relating to hazard communication for affected Skidmore employees.
- Maintaining and updating the SDS Program.
- Developing and implementing a universal hazardous chemical labeling system.
- Establishing emergency procedures to properly handle hazardous material releases.
- Identifying appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for employee use.

### ***Departments are responsible for:***

- Notifying all employees of the purpose and intent of the Hazard Communication Program.
- Ensuring that affected employees are trained in general hazard communication.
- Providing department specific information and training relating to hazard communication for affected Skidmore employees.
- Providing PPE and clothing in accordance with prescribed training.

### ***Employees are responsible for:***

- Complying with the Hazard Communication Program procedures.
- Participating in the Skidmore's Hazard Communication training session and department specific training sessions.
- Understanding how to read chemical labels and SDSs.
- Understanding and taking necessary precautions when handling hazardous chemicals.
- Using PPE.

Copies of this written program may be obtained from the Skidmore website [www.skidmore.edu](http://www.skidmore.edu) . Moreover, all employees, or their designated representatives, may obtain further information about this written program, the Hazard Communication Standard, GHS, applicable SDSs, and our chemical inventories by contacting either the EH&S Officer or the Academic Safety Officer.

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Chemicals that are transferred from the primary chemical container into a secondary container, must also be labeled with the product identifier, words, pictograms, symbols, or combination thereof which provide at least general information about the specific physical and health hazards of the chemical (1910.1200 f(6)).

However, labeling is not required for portable containers into which hazardous chemicals are transferred from labeled containers, if intended for the immediate use of the employee who performs the transfer.

## **NON-ROUTINE TASKS AND EMERGENCIES**

Periodically employees may be required to perform non-routine tasks (e.g., infrequent cleaning operations, maintenance activities, special projects, etc.) in which they may encounter hazardous chemicals. Prior to the start of a non-routine project, the supervisor or designee will provide training for each effected employee, including specific hazards of the materials that he or she may encounter during the activity.

The SDS provides information on protective measures the employee can use such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Other safety measures including ventilation, air monitoring, buddy systems, emergency rescue procedures, confined space entry procedures, may also be recommended.

Supervisors should plan for foreseeable emergencies (e.g. spills, fires, power outages, etc.) and train employees on the appropriate actions.

## **WORKING WITH CONTRACTORS**

Outside contractors are utilized by many Skidmore College departments for a variety of activities including: construction, renovation, testing and maintenance. There is a reciprocal responsibility between Skidmore College and the contractor to fulfill the requirements of the Hazard Communication Standard.

The Skidmore College employee who coordinates/oversees the work of a contractor must advise the contractors of their responsibility to provide appropriate hazard information (SDSs) for all hazardous chemicals brought onto Skidmore College.

Likewise, it is the responsibility of that individual to provide the contractor with information about the hazardous substances to which they may be exposed while at a Skidmore College site, and if applicable, the labeling system in use, protective measures to be taken, safe handling procedures, and the location and availability of SDSs.

## **TRAINING**

Both the EH&S Officer and Academic Safety Officer develop a general employee training program to meet the training requirements of the Hazard Communication Program (HCP). It is the responsibility of each department to provide its employee training for purposes which are unique to that department, including the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for each operation that may generate a hazardous material (i.e. fumes, dust, etc.). EH&S Officer and Academic Safety Officer are available for assistance in the development of these programs.

The training program emphasizes these elements:

- Summary of the Hazard Communication Standard and GHS.
- What hazardous chemicals are present in operations in employee work areas.
- Chemical and physical properties of hazardous chemicals (e.g., flash point, reactivity, etc.) and how to detect the presence or release of these chemicals.
- Physical hazards of chemicals (e.g., potential for fire, explosion, etc.).
- Health hazards, including signs and symptoms of overexposure, associated with exposure to chemicals and any medical condition known to be aggravated by exposure to them.
- Any simple asphyxiation, combustible dust, and pyrophoric hazards, as well as hazards not otherwise classified, of chemicals in work areas.
- Any steps the company has taken to reduce or prevent exposure to hazardous