

S 170 - HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

THE LAW:

The "Access to information About Hazardous and Toxic Substances Act" (the Employee Right to Know Law) gives employees a way to learn about chemical hazards in the workplace and how to work safely with these materials. A copy of this law (Article 89, Annotated Code of Maryland, 32-A-3N) is available. This law requires employers to inventory and list all hazardous and toxic substances used in the workplace and to collect Safety Data Sheets for these substances. Employers must also label or otherwise identify hazardous chemicals. Employees must know how to get information about the hazardous substances in their workplaces and be trained in the safe use of these materials.

RIGHT TO KNOW PROGRAM:

We have complied with the Right to Know Law by compiling a Chemical Information List and Safety Data Sheet Log, checking that containers are labeled, and by providing you with training.

Chemical Information List: Our chemical information list contains all of the chemicals we are using at Company. A copy of the list is available at each jobsite. Your superintendent will generally have the list and he may leave it at a central location such as a job trailer. Also, all company trucks must be equipped with a SDS book which contains the chemical information list. Check with your superintendent for this list.

Labels: The products we use are labeled in accordance with the Right to Know Law. They contain an identification of any hazardous components and an appropriate hazard warning. Some of the products we use are consumer products and may not indicate the hazards of their use. When in doubt, see the Chemical List and Safety Data Sheet.

Training: We are providing you with training by this informational letter and on-the-job training about the specific hazards and ways to work with the hazardous chemicals you use.

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS:

You have the right by law to:

See the Chemical Information List and Safety Data Sheets for hazardous substances in your workplace within one day of your request.

Be provided with one copy of the list of substances you use and safety data sheets or the means to make a copy at no cost within five days of a request.

Be trained about the hazards of the chemicals in your workplace, the appropriate equipment and methods to use to protect yourself from the hazards, and emergency procedures.

Refuse to work with a hazardous chemical if you are denied access to information about that chemical.

EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Your Right to Know Program takes teamwork. Do your part to work with your employer and co-workers to keep your workplace safe.
- Know where to get information about hazardous substances in your workplace.
- Learn to read and understand labels and Safety Data Sheets.
- Identify hazards before you start a job.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Use protective clothing and equipment.
- Keep your work area clean.
- Don't smoke, eat or drink around hazardous substances.
- Learn emergency procedures.
- Follow your employer's procedure for disposal and clean up.
- Practice safe work habits at all times.