

## HAZCOM

What an impressive word: "HAZCOM". Short for Hazard Communication. Why doesn't OSHA just say, "You've got to tell your workers about the potential dangers of the chemicals that you have on your property"? Anyway, that's what HAZCOM is. Let's talk about the basic elements of the HAZCOM Standard as they relate to most of our operations:

1. **Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)** are designed to provide both workers and emergency personnel with the proper procedures for handling or working with a particular substance. MSDSs include information such as physical data (melting point, boiling point, flash point etc.), toxicity, health effects, first aid, reactivity, storage, disposal, protective equipment, and spill/leak procedures. These are of particular use if a spill or other accident occurs. MSDSs should come from the supplier of your products. Missing MSDSs can usually be found on the website of the manufacturer. These should be kept in a book or binder and must be readily accessible to employees 24 hours/day. Keep in mind: second shift workers can't get to an MSDS book that's locked in the office at night.
2. **Container Labeling** means making sure that you've got labels on every barrel, bucket, and spray can. It also means making sure that whatever the labels say is in the container is really what is in the container. No coffee cans half full of paint thinner on the top shelf. A Diesel label on every diesel storage tank. No antifreeze jugs full of hydraulic oil. A container for everything, and everything in its container. Take a look around. Do we meet this requirement in our operation?
3. **Consumer Products** includes the glass cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, and floor waxes that you use in your operation much like you would use them at home. It's not a bad idea to keep MSDS's for these, but it's not required by the OSHA Standard as long as you use them as Consumer Products. When you start using gallon jugs of bleach to treat storm water, it's no longer a Consumer Product. Get the MSDS.

### DID YOU KNOW???

You can get customized MSDS sheets created for your scrap metal commodities with your company name and address. Go to: [www.chemadvisor.com](http://www.chemadvisor.com), or email: [info@chemadvisor.com](mailto:info@chemadvisor.com), or call 1-800-466-3750. ISRI has partnered with Chem Advisor to offer this service to you, our members. There is a cost from Chem Advisor for creating MSDS's.

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