



# Weekly Safety Tip

“Your Connection for Workplace Safety”  
Phone: 920-208-7520

*We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!*

*Our Weekly Safety Tip provides valuable and current safety information relevant for Work, Home & Play.*

*And, you will be kept current on the latest Safety Compliance issues.*



**SCI SAFETY NEWS OR TIP**



**SCI OSHA NEWS OR COMPLIANCE**



**SCI HEALTHYLIVING and WELLNESS NEWS**

**We want to hear from you! Send us your feedback and give us ideas for future safety topics.**

**Let us know how you feel about our new look!**

**Safety Slogan**

**Risk – Is it worth it?**

**James Lehrke-SCI**

**Of the week**

## SCI Safety Tip: New program credentials those who prepare safety data sheets

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

Date: September 19, 2013

With some provisions of the revised hazard communication standard set to take effect in December, employers need to prepare for compliance with new safety data sheet (SDS, formerly MSDS) requirements. A unique program is intended to improve the quality of the data sheets employers—and employees—rely on.

Keep reading to learn what's involved and how this new credentialing program could reduce risk for your workers.

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), AIHA Registry Programs, and Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC) have partnered on the effort. It provides individuals with a credential and enters them into a registry as qualified specialists in writing SDSs and labels. The program is known as the *SDS and Label Authoring Registry*.

According to registry manager Angela Oler, some individuals may already have the training and experience to meet the eligibility requirements. This can be determined through a qualifications worksheet. Those in need of additional education can use a free study guide to fill in the gaps in their knowledge. These and other materials are available online at the website <http://www.aiharegistries.org>. Enter “SDS registry” in the search box.

Oler says anyone can sit for the required exam, “as long as they meet the basic eligibility requirements and feel they are competent against the program’s body of knowledge.” The application process can be done online and costs about \$100. There is a separate fee for the examination.

She notes that the transition from the familiar MSDS to the new, globally harmonized 16-section SDS is significant. This first-of-its-kind registry will offer an easy way for employers or customers to identify those who are skilled and capable in preparing SDSs.

### Scientific information meets clear communication

SDSs help employees and employers determine if the chemicals they're working with are hazardous and, if so, what precautions should be taken. It's long been recognized that the effectiveness of hazard communication depends on the authors of data sheets. The task requires a thorough knowledge of chemistry, toxicology, personal protective equipment (PPE), and design and engineering controls.

This essential information must be effectively communicated to workers who lack the specialized knowledge. According to the AIHA Registry Programs, “the demand for this unique combination of skills exceeds the supply, forcing many companies to assign their chemical labeling and SDS authoring duties to employees who have little relevant experience or education.”

When employers rely on SDSs supplied by manufacturers, importers, or distributors, the employer is not liable for their accuracy as long as they have accepted the SDS in good faith—for example, without blank spaces or obvious inaccuracies. Employers should report inaccurate or missing information on an SDS to the chemical manufacturer or distributor.

Employers who change or reformulate the composition of a chemical will be held responsible by OSHA for an SDS's accuracy.

Employers are not required to classify chemicals unless they choose not to rely on the classification performed by the chemical manufacturer or importer for the chemical.

Creators of the registry believe that employers that turn to registered SDS authors can feel confident that they will get high-quality data sheets that comply with the new requirements.

## SCI OSHA News: OSHA focuses on female construction workers (Part 3)

Source: [www.blr.com](http://www.blr.com)

Date: September 4, 2013

**Poorly fitting personal protective equipment (PPE).** Wearing PPE is essential for safety in most construction environments. However, women often have difficulty finding PPE that fits them properly due to their usually smaller size and different body proportions.

For example, compared to men, women typically have shorter and narrower feet, narrower shoulders, wider hips, smaller hands, and a smaller head and face circumference. All of these differences affect the comfort and fit of PPE, and simply scaling PPE designed for men down in size often doesn't solve the problem.

PPE that doesn't fit properly does not perform effectively, leaving female workers exposed to the hazards the PPE is designed to protect against. And if PPE is uncomfortable or poorly fitting, women may avoid wearing it altogether. Equipment marketed as "one-size-fits-all" is often particularly problematic.

OSHA recommends the following steps to make sure PPE protects female employees effectively:

- Purchase PPE in a wide range of sizes, including those suitable for women.
- Maintain a directory of PPE manufacturers and suppliers and the sizes they offer. The International Safety Equipment Association (ISAE) provides a list of companies and suppliers that offer female-specific PPE at <http://tinyurl.com/q82lxpm>.
- Give female employees the chance to test PPE before use to make sure it fits properly, protects against hazards, and will not interfere with job functions.

**Musculoskeletal hazards.** Like PPE, tools are often designed to be used by average-sized men. Because women typically have less upper body strength, the extra force required to operate certain tools or perform certain tasks, such as lifting, may put them at increased risk for ergonomic injuries.

Possible solutions include the following:

- Determine whether alternative methods for performing certain strength-intensive tasks are feasible, and communicate these methods to all employees during training.
- Train all workers on proper lifting and bending methods.
- When possible, purchase equipment and tools designed with ergonomic considerations in mind. If female (or male) workers complain that tools are difficult and/or painful to use, check to see if an ergonomically designed alternative is available.

OSHA has additional information about women in construction on a webpage created specifically for the alliance. Check it out at <https://www.osha.gov/doc/topics/women/index.html>.

*Are you aware of the up and coming changes to OSHA'S Hazard Communications Standard?  
Call for an appointment!*

**SCI Upcoming events**

*(See attached files for more information!)*



**Invite you to join us:  
OSHA 10 Hour General Industry Training**

October 15 & 16th, 2013  
2108 Kohler Memorial Dr Sheboygan  
Tuesday 8:00AM to 3:30PM & Wednesday 8:30AM to 11:00AM

If you are interested in becoming more confident about OSHA requirements & keeping your employees safe, then this is the training you've been waiting for. \$235 per Student

This training will focus on topics based on the top ten most frequently cited OSHA standards from 2012. You will learn about the new Hazard Communication 2012/Global Harmonized System requirements and find out how to quickly maneuver the OSHA website to access the info you need.



**Environmental and Fire Preparedness Workshop  
Invite you to join us:**

OSHA is not the only regulator out there, have you given enough thought to what the EPA, DNR, or Fire Department would have to say while visiting your site?

Join us for breakfast on  
Thursday October 17th from 8-9:30 AM  
ST Nicholas Hospital, Christopher Room, Sheboygan  
You'll leave knowing:

How to be better prepared for a visit from the environmental regulators, Federal EPA and WI DNR  
Prevent spills, ensure product & employee safety  
The top 10 most frequently recognized violations from the local Sheboygan County fire departments  
Lots of supplemental handouts & copy of presentation

Any questions or to register:  
Please email Laura directly at [Laura@safetyconnections.com](mailto:Laura@safetyconnections.com)  
\$20 at the door, (\$25 if billing)



What do you think?  
Send us an email at:  
[jlconnections@aol.com](mailto:jlconnections@aol.com)  
See our bold new look @  
<http://www.safetyconnections.com/>

*In Loving  
Memory of Jessica Lehrke*

The Instructor: Laura Sauermilch, a  
trained investigator and former  
environmental compliance officer.  
Read her bio at  
[www.safetyconnections.com](http://www.safetyconnections.com)

Laura Sauermilch at:  
[Laura@safetyconnections.com](mailto:Laura@safetyconnections.com)

Check out her bio at:  
[www.safetyconnections.com](http://www.safetyconnections.com)

