

THE MASSACHUSETTS RIGHT TO KNOW LAW

The Massachusetts Right to Know Law

MGL Ch. 111F

**Protects Public Employees by assuring
the provision of Information on Chemical
Hazards in the Workplace**

Private vs. Public Employers



Labeling Requirements

- All containers of more than 5 pounds or more than 1 gallon containing toxic or hazardous substances or >1 shift/1 person
- Name must match MSDS
- Health hazard warnings
(target organs health effects)
- Physical hazard warnings
(flammable, corrosive, etc,)

NFPA

National Fire Protection Association



HMIS

Hazardous Material Identification System

| Name of Material | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HEALTH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FLAMMABILITY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Physical Hazard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT |

Higher the number the more dangerous

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) ¹

Employers are required to:

- **Maintain Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's) for each hazardous substance in the workplace.**
- **Keep MSDSs for a minimum of thirty years from the end of use of the chemical,**
- **Make them available to employees or the State within four working days of a written request.**

Note: POs require MSDSs

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) ²

- **Manufacturer's name**
- **Chemical name**
- **Percentage of hazardous ingredients**
- **Reactivity**
 - stability and incompatibility
- **Physical Data**
 - boiling point, flash point., vapor information, water issues and odor
- **Fire and Explosion hazard**
 - any unusual fire and explosion Information
 - extinguishing media
 - special fire fighting procedures
- **Health hazard data**
 - threshold limit value
 - effects of overexposure
 - emergency first aid procedures

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) ³

- **Special protection information**
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE)**
including the use of:
 - Goggles or face shields
 - Gloves
 - Aprons
 - Breathing apparatus
 - Any special precautions which may apply

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) ⁴

MSDS's should not be relied upon for information on waste disposal. Most merely state that all federal, state, and local laws must be obeyed for waste disposal which does not provide proper or sufficient information.

The Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Regulations (310 CMR 30.00) must be consulted whenever there is a question concerning waste disposal.

Converting to Global Harmonizing System - GHS

■ **December 1, 2013**

Employers must train employees on how to read GHS formatted labels and safety data sheets.

■ **June 1, 2015**

Chemical manufacturers and distributors must complete hazard reclassification and produce GHS styled labels and safety data sheets. Distributors get an additional 6 months to complete shipments of old inventory.

GHS Dates Continued

■ **December 1, 2015**

Distributors must comply fully with HCS requirements.
(Grace period for shipments of old inventory ends.)

■ **June 1, 2016**

Employers must be in full compliance with revised HCS, including complete training of employees on new hazards and/or revisions to workplace hazard communication program.