

## **Hazard Communication/GHS Training A MUST Before December 2013**

All companies must train all their employees on the new OSHA 1910.1200 Hazard Communication Standards with the new GHS additions by December 1, 2013 to maintain OSHA safety compliance. This training will be simple, but is a must for employee safety and OSHA compliance. OSHA inspectors will have this program on their inspection checklist after the December 1, 2013 deadline.

**What training is required?** The training must include (a) an overview of the company's hazard communication program (HCP), (b) the new HCP/GHS (Global Harmonization System) labeling requirements, (c) the new Safety Data Sheet (SDS) structure and information content. SDS's are the improved version of the current MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet).

**Why the HCP/GHS changes?** These changes are to improve communications between the chemical manufacturers, handler/user, and our employees, in an effort to further reduce employee illness and injury. In the past, information from domestic and overseas chemical companies was lacking or difficult to understand. Now everyone will be using the same information format and this will simplify educating/training users of the hazardous substances and chemicals. The ultimate goal is to better inform the employee regarding proper identification of a product, safe use and handling of the product, quick recognition of personal protective equipment (PPE), and first aid and emergency response recommendations should an incident occur at your company.

**How does this affect the lumber and building materials industry?** We are distributors of wood, treated and untreated, that has been deemed a safety hazard when its original form is altered – sawing, sanding, chipping, etc. Altering wood products has the potential for creating respiratory hazards and combustible dust exposure. OSHA currently requires the LBM industry to have a MSDS (soon SDS) for wood. In addition, most LBMD's retail paints, stains, thinners, kerosene, heating oil, and other construction related or maintenance chemicals and substances – such as swimming pool supplies. Companies should be presently maintaining a MSDS file/notebook for employee and emergency responder reference; this is a present OSHA requirement.

Additional HCP/GHS information articles will be published regarding this regulatory standard as program implementation unfolds. For additional information or questions, please contact CSA at (678) 674-1860.