



HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD

# QuickTips

Developed by AIHA  
in support of the OSHA Alliance



An OSHA Cooperative Program

## For Job Health and Safety on Introduction of New Chemicals into the Workplace

### *What to do today to protect worker health and prevent health hazards*

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#### **What is the hazard?**

- Many chemicals have the potential to cause injury, illness or damage, if used under certain conditions.
- The likelihood or chance that harm may occur depends on how and under what conditions the chemical is being used.
- Perform a process review to identify the hazards of the process and any new hazards being introduced.
- Be sure to consider physical hazards (for example: flammability, reactivity, explosivity) as well as health hazards.

#### **How do I know there is a hazard?**

- Check for chemical warning labels.
- Check the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provided by the manufacturer for physical, health and environmental hazards.
- Check the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) website ([www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)) and search for the chemical name.

#### **Why should I care?**

- Your employees will be using this material for research, development or manufacturing and may be exposed to it.
- Ignoring the potential hazards can result in subjecting your workers or yourself to conditions that could lead to illness, injury or property damage.

#### **What do I need to do?**

##### Evaluation

- Obtain the MSDS from the chemical manufacture or distributor.
- Review the manufacturer's exposure control and protective measure recommendations and compare with your planned use of the chemical.
- If uncertain, contact a qualified professional, such as an industrial hygienist, to help you determine if your intended use of the chemical is safe.

##### Training

- Review the potential hazards of the chemical with the users of the chemical and also review protective measures required to use the chemical.
- Provide users with a copy of the MSDS.
- Train the operators on the chemical prior to their use and handling of the material.

##### Inspections

- Periodically observe how employees are working with the chemical and compare practices with the warning instructions in the MSDS.

##### Records

- Include the material's hazards and protective measures in the process documentation where it is used.

#### **When do I need to do help?**

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Personal  
Protective  
Equipment  
(PPE)

- Identify PPE from the manufacturer's MSDS. If the information is not specific, contact the manufacturer for further information.

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***When do I need  
more help?***

- When there is inadequate data described in the MSDS or other documentation provided by the manufacturer.

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***Where can I get  
it?***

- On line databases, such as the Hazardous Substance Database, as well as through your local AIHA section.
  - OSHA consultation services
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