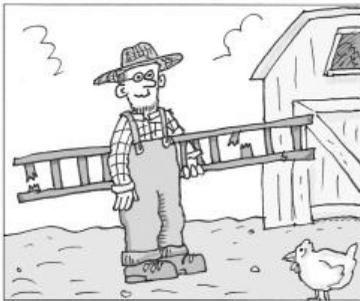


news & notes

MORE MOBILE SAFETY INFO

In addition to OSHA, other agencies are putting safety resources in mobile formats.

- A new “Ladder Safety” app from the **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)**. The app for both Android and Apple® devices uses visual and audio signals to check a ladder’s angle and provides tips for using extension ladders safely. Get the app at 1.usa.gov/17BZxWN.
- “Working together for risk prevention,” an iPad® app created as part of the **European Union’s Healthy Workplaces Campaign**. Users can access practical guides, case studies, animated infographics, checklists, an interactive self-assessment tool, and more. Get it in the iPad App store.
- **WorkSafe British Columbia**, a Canadian provincial safety agency, has adapted a selection of its most popular publications to ebook format. See what’s available at bit.ly/14UjBrh.



If an unsafe ladder is used by a farmer, is the problem with the former or the latter, the ladder or the farmer?



November 2013

The book on ladder safety OSHA issues new ebook

Fatal falls are the leading cause of death in the construction industry, and falls from ladders are responsible for fully one-third of those deaths.

As part of its Fall Prevention Campaign, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has ventured into a new area: ebook publishing. What, you might ask, do ebooks that can be read on computers and other electronic devices have to do with fall prevention?

OSHA is hoping that its new 16-page booklet, *Falling Off Ladders Can Kill: Use Them Safely*, will make it onto the smartphones and tablets of the younger generation of workers—and that they will use the information to help keep themselves safe.

New technology to reach a new generation

According to OSHA, young people, Latinos, and other workers at high risk of fall injuries are more likely than other groups to go online for information, including safety and health resources.

The new ladder safety ebook (available at <http://1.usa.gov/14Z1QEv>) is modeled on a publication from the Singapore Workplace Safety and Health Council. It is bilingual (English and Spanish) and uses clear illustrations and plain language, together with the electronic format, to put needed information into the hands of workers at the time and place where they need it most—while working on the jobsite.

Although the book is not an exhaustive primer on ladder safety, it provides portable safety information that workers can access quickly when they need it. Because it is bilingual and illustrated with line drawings, a broad cross section of workers should be able to understand the information.

Critical information

The ebook provides important information, including:

- **When to use a ladder.** Sometimes ladders are the wrong choice. If workers must transport materials and equipment to the work height, work at height for a long period of time, or work very high above the ground (at heights where a ladder can become unstable), a scissor lift or scaffolding may be a safer choice.
- **How to choose a ladder.** If the employee will work from the ladder, it should be tall enough for him or her to easily reach the work area. If the ladder is used to access another level, it must extend at least 3 feet above the landing point.

news & notes

SDS CREDENTIALS

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), AIHA Registry Programs, and Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC) have partnered on a unique program that is intended to improve the quality of the safety data sheets (SDSs) users rely on. 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 www.aihregistries.org. Enter "SDS registry" in the search box.

The application process can be done online and costs about \$100. There is a separate fee for the examination.

HazCom changes

Learn about new labels and safety data sheets

Federal OSHA's revised Hazard Communication (HazCom) Standard was revised to align with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). Two major changes to HazCom require (1) the use of new labeling elements and (2) a standardized 16-section format for safety data sheets (SDSs), formerly material safety data sheets (MSDSs).

By December 1, 2013, all workers who are exposed to hazardous chemicals in the workplace must be trained on the new label elements and SDS format. Here are two resources where you can learn about labels and SDSs:

1. safety.blr.com/workplace-safety-resource-centers/GHS-Hazard-Communication
2. www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html

Implementation of the GHS and the use of the new labels and SDSs are expected to:

- Create a safer workplace;
- Reduce workplace accidents and illnesses caused by chemical exposures;
- Provide consistent and simplified communications about substances and safe work practices;
- Create greater awareness of hazards, resulting in safer use of chemicals in the workplace;
- Make it easier and less costly to comply with HazCom regulations; *and*
- Enhance the universal protection of human health and the environment.

GHS label elements

Know what they mean

Labels from chemical manufacturers, importers, and distributors under the revised HazCom standard must contain the following elements:

- **Name, address, and telephone number** of the chemical manufacturer, importer, or other responsible party.
- **Product identifier.** This can be (but is not limited to) the chemical name, code number, or batch number.
- **Signal words.** There are only two signal words: "Danger" is used for more severe hazards; "Warning" is used for less severe hazards.
- **Hazard statements.** These describe the nature of a chemical's hazards and their severity.
- **Precautionary statements.** There are four types of statements that describe preventive measures chemical users should take:
 1. Prevention to minimize exposure,
 2. Response in case of accidental spillage or exposure,
 3. Storage, *and*
 4. Disposal.
- **Supplementary information.** Information a chemical manufacturer or distributor decides to provide, such as hazards not otherwise classified on the label, recommended personal protective equipment (PPE), directions for use, expiration date, or fill date.
- **Pictogram.** A symbol on a white background framed within a red border, and each represents a distinct hazard. Eight pictograms are mandatory; the Environment pictogram is not required.

