OSHA Commonly Cites Hazard Communication

Did you know that Hazard Communication is the leading OSHA citation in the restaurant industry? During the period of October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 there were 5,161 citations, on the Hazard Communication regulation alone?

Does your company have a hazard communication program in place for your current day-to-day operations? OSHA regulation 1910.1200(h)(1)(2)(3) states that employers shall provide employees with effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area upon the time of their initial assignment.

Getting your hazard communication program started can be very easy to do. The employer or safety coordinator should appoint one person to manage all the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) within the business. This person should ensure the following:

- The list of hazardous chemicals is current
- SDS is updated for all new products
- The identity of each chemical on the list matches that written on its SDS
- The container is properly labeled
- Each incoming hazardous chemical container has SDS
- SDS information is neatly organized and available to all employees at all times
- Employees are all aware of where to find the SDS information
- Outdated SDS information is removed from the current SDS book

Please note: If you have stopped working with a certain chemical, you no longer need to keep its SDS, however, you still need to keep a record of the chemical's identity, locations and the years it was used for at least 30 years.

Completing this short list of processes could save you from facing an OSHA citation, help keep your employees safe and possibly prevent a costly injury from occurring.

If you would like more information about this topic or have questions, contact Jim Wirth at 1-877-360-3608, ext. 52370, or by email at jwirth@riskcontrol360.com.