

ACTION PLAN

PUBLIC AND EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
("RIGHT-TO-KNOW")

Policy:

The Chemical Manufacturers Association believes that all employees must have the safety and health information about the chemicals in their work environment to which they might be exposed, including the chemical name where appropriate, and must know how to protect themselves accordingly. CMA supports a sensible national standard, rather than non-uniform state and local initiatives, which assures that all employees will have access to necessary information about chemicals in their work environment.

Emergency units, local officials and interested public groups must also have the information necessary to plan for and respond to emergency situations.

Action:

CMA encourages member companies to --

- Make information available to employees on the health hazards of specific workplace chemicals. As appropriate, use container labels; placards and signs; Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's); chemical names; coding or marking systems; written instructions; or other appropriate forms of communication.
- Provide training and education programs for employees about the hazards of workplace chemicals, appropriate work practices, protective measures and emergency procedures.
- Develop hazard evaluation and toxicology programs to classify further the nature of materials used and produced.
- Provide Material Safety Data Sheets containing essential safety and health information to contractors, carriers and customers for employee information, protection and training. MSDS's will be maintained by member companies in an up-to-date manner.
- Work with local governmental officials, through local plant management, to ensure complete and effective emergency response planning, including information on CHEMTREC, and help establish broad-based local advisory councils to improve communities' ability to manage hazardous materials emergencies.

- Provide relevant information to local fire and health officials in the community to assist in the development of emergency procedures.
- Provide any information needed by treating physicians when a public or employee health emergency exists.
- Advocate adequate protection of confidential business information in all situations where such confidential information is disclosed.
- Meet with public groups to review relevant information, to respond to public questions or concerns about chemicals, and to improve the understanding of the chemical industry in the community.

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