SCHC Monthly Newsletter
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SCHC’s Annual Meeting & Annual Survey

SCHC is pleased to announce that the 2021 Annual Meeting planning is well underway! With thoughts of safety and convenience for our attendees in mind, we will be hosting this as a virtual event in the first half of November, packed with innovative topics, access to industry leaders and policymakers, trade resources, and SCHC-exclusive events. It’s the perfect time to learn and network with fellow HazCom professionals.

Be a part of the planning! We’re gathering input from meeting attendees, speakers, exhibitors, poster presenters and sponsors to develop this upcoming fall event. Members will soon receive the Annual Survey, which will play an integral part in planning the meeting agenda, professional development courses, special events, and more. Care to exhibit? Start by taking the Exhibitor Survey.

News from OSHA

40th Session of UNSCEGHS Public Meeting June 23rd
Changes to Walking-Working Surfaces. Comments Due July 19th
Hearing & Deadline Info for Proposed OSHA HazCom Standard
New FAQs on Recording Illnesses Caused By Required & Recommended COVID-19 Vaccinations

Mark Your Calendar

June 15-16, 2021 - CHCS Distance Learning: Poison Centre Notification
June 21-22, 2021 - CHCS Distance Learning: Advanced Preparation of SDS (EU & UK)
June 22, 2021 - CHCS Distance Learning: Substance Identity Testing Requirements for UK REACH
September 8-9, 2021 - CHCS Distance Learning: Introduction to European and UK Chemical Regulation

SCHC Member Profile: Log in to find event Discount Codes
From the Member Engagement Desk

Happy May, everyone!

Here in Connecticut things are in full bloom. The days are getting longer and warmer, and things are starting to get back to normal. I think today’s column will be short since the sun is calling me outside.

Member Engagement is moving forward. All of our subcommittees are working forward with some key changes coming. If you want to find out what we’re working on, please feel free to contact me and I can get you on the meeting invites. Just a reminder—committees are open to all SCHC members in good standing and anyone can join almost every committee at any time. The committees really help the organization run.

Our committee is also going to be reaching out to current and former members to get some feedback about the organization. We want to listen more to our members to give you more benefits for your membership. Instead of trying to do a survey, we’ll be reaching out individually to members kind of randomly to ask you some questions. If you have some thoughts and want to volunteer to share them, please contact me.

With that, I’m going to sign off. As I said, short today since I never quite grew out of the phase in life where lovely outdoor weather destroys concentration. We’re going to have many more updates for everyone soon. Lots moving forward and I look forward to being able to announce some of the bigger changes.

Stay safe and well, and enjoy the sunshine!

Chandra Deeds Gioiello, MS, CIH, SDSRP
Chair, Member Engagement Committee
New Safe Work Australia Poster

Safe Work Australia published an updated poster titled: Work Health and Safety Regulations: Classification and labelling for workplace hazardous chemicals

Comparing the Canadian & US HazCom Regulatory Proposals

As part of the recent proposed regulatory changes in Canada (Proposed Regulation Amendments and Order Amending Schedule 2) and the United States (OSHA’s proposed rulemaking), Health Canada created a comparative document that outlines key variances for stakeholders. The downloadable document is available in English and French.

Comparison in English  Comparison in French

Through the work of the Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council’s Joint Forward Plan, both countries have an international commitment to align with the seventh revised edition of the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

ECHA: Correct Company Size to Avoid Fees

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is reminding companies to register their correct company size before the ECHA verification process begins. If the ECHA learns only after the verification process has started that the incorrect size has been claimed, companies will be required to pay the balance of the accurate fee and an administrative charge. To learn more about size definitions and submit a correction, visit this ECHA page.
New eCSF Tool for Pesticide Registration Applications

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching an electronic Confidential Statement of Formula application (eCSF builder) to support new pesticide applications. When companies electronically register a new pesticide product the eCSF builder will automatically validate certain data prior to submission to EPA. The process is expected to be faster, more efficient, and to work in tandem with EPA’s Substance Registry Service. Currently, paper Confidential Statement of Formula (CSF) applications are still available but registrants are encouraged to use the eCSF and provide feedback via the Central Data Exchange.

EPA Extends Deadline for Confidential Chemicals on the TSCA Inventory

In April 2021, EPA posted a list of 390 chemicals expected to lose their confidential chemical identity status. The chemicals would be moved to the public portion of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Stakeholders were given until May 14, 2021 to notify of any errors before the move. With a fast approaching notification deadline looming, several agencies wrote letters to the EPA requesting additional time. EPA responded by extending the deadline to June 30, 2021.

A key concern expressed by the agencies regarded time to review chemicals that overlapped with those reported under the Active-Inactive rule. Stakeholders who need to report an error or who have questions can contact EPA staff before the deadline.

ECHA Annual Report 2020

ECHA released its Annual Report 2020 as an interactive web page, complete with timeline, videos, and downloadable PDF.
EPA Changes to Prevent Unsafe New PFAS from Entering the Market

EPA announced an important policy shift of how it reviews new Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl-Substances (PFAS) before they can enter the market. Historically, some new PFAS were allowed through low volume exemptions (LVEs). However, EPA’s New Chemicals Program is becoming stricter on how it assesses PFAS and various sub-classes. The new strategy will unlikely grant eligibility to LVEs for PFAS. This change allows the agency additional time to conduct a more thorough review process and potentially mitigate risk before the PFAS reach the market place. Companies who already granted LVEs may be contacted by EPA to reduce the PFAS in the market.

EPA Approves Emergency Exemption for Surface Coating that Continuously Kills COVID-19

Georgia, Utah and Minnesota were granted their emergency exemption requests for BIAXAM, an adhesive film that can continuously kill SARS-CoV-2 particles. EPA granted these requests so that the film could be used in Delta Air Lines planes and facilities within these three states. BIAXAM would be applied to a variety of non-porous surfaces, like gate counters, seat backs, overhead compartments, and touch screens. Laboratory testing revealed that the film would be effective for up to 100 days on airport spaces and up to 200 days on airplane surfaces.
OSHA recently published a new letter of interpretation regarding the classification of impregnated wipes. This was a new piece of guidance that gives a clear determination for how OSHA expects to see these products treated on SDS and labels.

I submitted the request for interpretation after many companies had come with different approaches for classifying their wipe products. Some calculated in the weight of the wipe in for the health classifications. Some considered the wipe a solid for the purposes of physical hazard classifications while other considered them a liquid. The DOT classifies solids impregnated with flammable liquids as flammable solids. There was no clear guidance from any authority regarding the handling these materials.

The letter has very clear instructions for these products – treat them as a liquid. Classify only for the liquid phase for both health and physical hazards. This guidance is the most simple to follow. This will allow companies to have a single SDS for both the free liquid and the wipe form of their products. It will also allow companies to create a wipe version of an existing liquid product without having to reclassify. The treatment of the product as a liquid also simplifies testing for physical hazards.

This guidance does not affect how the products are treated from a shipping perspective or their consumer product labeling (if it applies). It is helpful to finally have a clear answer for how these products should be classified. From my research, this is the first guidance of this type from a major regulatory body. While an OSHA letter of interpretation is not binding outside the US, this approach would be defensible in other regions until alternate guidance is published.
May 31st is Save Your Hearing Day

“The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 22 million workers are exposed to potentially damaging noise at work each year. Whether you work at a sports venue, on a tarmac, or operate a jackhammer—hearing loss is preventable” shares the web page, OSHA.gov/noise. Workplace noise levels can be reduced through engineering controls, administrative controls and hearing protection devices.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND NEWSLETTER REMINDER

Please send all newsworthy newsletter topics to the Member Engagement Committee by email to socialmedia@s chc.org.