



Are You Prepared for a State HazCom Inspection?

The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) oversees the Texas Hazard Communication Act (THCA) that applies to Texas local governments. The Act is codified as Chapter 502 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. The TDSHS has regulatory authority to conduct inspections of public entities for compliance with the Act and Risk Pool Members have been inspected. While the prospect of an inspection might make you anxious, this T.I.P.S. sheet provides basic information regarding the Act. The Risk Pool's Loss Prevention Department can assist you with meeting requirements of the Act which will help protect employees from chemical related hazards. For more information on compliance inspections and enforcement of the Act by TDSHS, click [here](#).

What is the Texas Hazard Communication Act (THCA)?

The THCA is a state "worker right-to-know" law that requires public employers (including cities, counties and other types of local government) to provide employees with specific information, protections, and training on the hazardous chemicals to which employees may be exposed in the workplace.

What is the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)?

The GHS is an international system that defines and classifies the chemical product hazards and communicates health and safety information on labels and safety data sheets. The GHS was adopted by OSHA in 2012 and is referenced and required to meet compliance standards of the Texas Hazard Communication Act.

The Texas Hazard Communication Act requires that public entity employers:

- Develop and maintain a written hazard communication program designed for a specific workplace. A Model Written HazCom Program is available from Texas DSHS [here](#).
- Train employees who use or handle hazardous chemicals in the workplace. Additional training content is available on page 9 of the [Model Written Hazard Communication Program](#).
- Document training and maintain records, including the date of training, employee(s) attending, subjects covered, and name of instructor(s). A sample training roster is available [here](#).
- Maintain a legible copy of current safety data sheets (SDS) for each hazardous chemical purchased that meets the requirements.
- Properly label all hazardous chemical containers. Information on hazardous chemical labels is available [here](#).
- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) that provides a level of protection to chemicals to which the employee may be exposed that will be adequate to ensure their health and safety based on current industry standards. Information about PPE standards is available [here](#).
- Post copies of the worker right-to-know "Notice to Employees" in locations where notices are normally posted. Copies of the required notice are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Additional Resources

For more information on THCA visit <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/hazcom/faq.aspx>

TMLIRP Online Learning Center

- Global SDS and Hazardous Communication Standards

TMLIRP Media Library

- GHS Safety Data Sheets and GHS Labeling, Disk 706
- Hazard Communication: Your Key to Chemical Safety (Eng /Sp) Three-Disk Set, Disk 673
- Hazcom: In Sync with GHS Disk 851