

■ HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

TERMS:

Requirements for Large Farms — Farm operations with more than 10 full-time employees are required to comply with all provisions of the Right to Know Act, briefly summarized as follows:

Hazardous Substance List — Employers must keep a current list of each hazardous chemical normally used or stored at their farm or workplace in an amount more than 55 gallons or 500 pounds, whichever is greater. For each such substance, the list must include, among other information, the name of the chemical, the quantity usually stored at the site, and the location at the site where the material is normally stored.

Material Safety Data Sheets — For each hazardous chemical they buy, employers must obtain from the manufacturer or distributor a current material safety data sheet, a document containing certain identifying information, health hazard and safety information, handling precautions, and other prescribed data.

Worker's Right To Know — A worker is entitled to receive an employer's hazardous substance list and a safety data sheet for each substance on the list, by submitting a written request to the employer. The requested materials must be provided within 10 days after receipt of the request by the employer, at a fee not to exceed the cost of copying.

Requirements for Smaller Farms — A farm operation that employs 10 or fewer full-time workers but which normally stores at least 55 gallons or 500 pounds of a hazardous chemical, whichever is greater, is required to furnish the local fire department with the name and telephone number of a knowledgeable representative of the employer who can be contacted in case of emergency or for further information. These employers are not subject to any other requirement of this law.

ENFORCEMENT: *Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau, Occupational Safety and Health Division, North Carolina Department of Labor, Raleigh, North Carolina 27603 (919-807-2926; toll-free 800-625-2267).*

SPECIAL NOTE: Under North Carolina's federally approved occupational safety and health program, farmworkers employed by a farm operation which employs more than 10 workers, or which operates a temporary labor camp, must also receive formal training from the employer regarding the hazardous substances found in the workplace.

SPECIAL NOTE: An employer may not fire, discipline or discriminate against a worker because the worker has filed a complaint or made use of any other right granted by this law.