

■ **OREGON SAFE EMPLOYMENT ACT (HAZARD COMMUNICATION)**

TERMS: Under the Safe Employment Act, Oregon has adopted a hazard communication standard that applies specifically to agricultural employers when a hazardous chemical is known to be present in the workplace in such a way as to expose workers under normal conditions of use or in a foreseeable emergency.

Hazard Communication Program — Farm employers must develop and put into operation a written hazard communication program specific to their workplace. It must include, among other things, (1) a list of all the hazardous chemicals in the workplace, and (2) a description of the methods for informing their workers about the hazards of non-routine tasks.

Product Labels — Employers must ensure that the product label that shipped with each hazardous chemical in the workplace is legible and displayed on the container in the work area. Pesticide application equipment such as spray tanks and backpack-type sprayers do not have to be labeled, as long as the pesticide handler still has access to the product label.

Safety Data Sheets — The employer must have a safety data sheet for each hazardous chemical used or present in the workplace, and to which workers may be exposed during normal work conditions or in an emergency. All such data sheets must be readily accessible to workers on all shifts.

Employee Information and Training — At the time of their initial assignment, or whenever a new hazard is introduced into their work area, the employer must provide training for the workers who are or may be exposed to a hazardous chemical. Training must include, among other information, (1) methods of detecting the presence or release of a hazardous chemical in the work area, (2) the physical and health hazards of the chemicals in the work area, and (3) the measures workers can take to protect themselves from the hazards involved, including appropriate work practices and personal protective equipment.

ENFORCEMENT: *Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, Salem, Oregon 97309 (503-378-3272; toll-free 800-922-2689).*

SPECIAL NOTE: An employer may not fire, discipline or discriminate in any way against a worker because the worker has filed a complaint, participated in a proceeding, or exercised any other right afforded by these provisions. A worker who has been subjected to retaliation may file a complaint with the *Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, Portland, Oregon 97232 (971-673-0844)* at any time within 90 days after learning of the alleged violation.