

■ **WASHINGTON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1973 (HAZARD COMMUNICATION)**

**TERMS:** The state labor and industries director has adopted numerous standards that apply specifically to agricultural employers in the state, including rules requiring them to identify the hazardous chemicals in the workplace and to train their employees about those materials.

**Hazardous Chemical List** — Agricultural employers must compile a list of hazardous chemicals known to be present in the workplace and to which workers there may be exposed. For each item on the list, the employer must obtain from the manufacturer a safety data sheet that includes prescribed information about its hazards and related protective measures.

Both the hazardous chemical list and safety data sheets must be kept up to date and made accessible to employees.

**Information and Training** — At the time of their initial job assignment and any time a new chemical hazard is introduced into their work area, the employer must:

- (1) Inform the workers of (a) the requirements of these rules, (b) any operations in their work area where hazardous chemicals may be present, and (c) the location of the chemical list and safety data sheets described above.
- (2) Provide the workers with effective training about hazardous chemicals in their work area, to include (a) methods for detecting the presence or release of hazardous chemicals, (b) the likely symptoms of over-exposure, and (c) the steps workers can take to protect themselves from the associated hazards.

**ENFORCEMENT:** *Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, Olympia, Washington 98504 (360-902-5494; toll-free 800-423-7233).*

**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. Retaliation should be reported to the Department of Labor and Industries within 30 days after the violation occurs.