



OSHA FACT Sheet

PSM of Highly Hazardous Chemicals

What does the OSHA standard, Process Safety Management of Highly Hazardous Chemicals, cover?

This standard contains requirements for the safe management of hazards associated with processes using, storing, manufacturing, handling, or moving highly hazardous chemicals onsite. It emphasizes the management of hazards through an established comprehensive program that integrates technologies, procedures, and management practices.

Why is this standard necessary?

Unexpected releases of highly hazardous chemicals including toxic, reactive, or flammable liquids and gases from processes have been reported for many years. Incidents continue to occur in various industries that use highly hazardous chemicals that may be toxic, reactive, flammable, or explosive, or may exhibit a combination of these properties. Regardless of the industry using these highly hazardous chemicals, there is a potential for an accidental release any time they are not properly controlled. This, in turn, creates the possibility of a disaster.

What industries does the rule cover?

OSHA's standard applies mainly to manufacturing industries—particularly those pertaining to chemicals, transportation equipment, and fabricated metal products. Other affected sectors include those involved with natural gas liquids; farm product warehousing; food processing, electric, gas, and sanitary services; and wholesale trade. The standard also applies to pyrotechnics and explosives manufacturers. It has special provisions for contractors working in covered facilities.

What does the standard require?

The key provision of the standard is a process hazard analysis (PHA) that is based on a compilation of process safety information. A PHA is a careful review of what could go wrong and what safeguards must be implemented to prevent releases of hazardous chemicals.

The standard also mandates written operating procedures, employee training and participation, pre-startup safety reviews, evaluation of the mechanical integrity of critical equipment, contractor requirements, and written procedures for managing change. It requires a permit system for hot work, investigation of incidents involving releases of covered chemicals or “near-misses,” emergency action plans, compliance audits at least every 3 years, and trade secret protection.

Where can I learn more about the standard and its requirements?

For specific requirements see *Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 1910.119, which is available on the OSHA website. OSHA also has two publications that provide information about the process safety management standard and its application. *Process Safety Management* (OSHA 3132) and *Process Safety Management—Guidelines for Compliance* (OSHA 3133) are available online at www.osha-slc.gov/OshDoc/Additional.html and through the OSHA Publications Office at the address and telephone number below.

How can you get more information on safety and health?

OSHA has various publications, standards, technical assistance, and compliance tools to help you, and offers extensive assistance through its many safety and health programs: onsite consultation, voluntary protection programs, grants, strategic partnerships, state plans, training, and education. Documents such as OSHA's *Safety and Health Management Guidelines* provide information about elements critical to the development of a successful safety and health management system. This and other information are available on OSHA's website.

- For one free copy of OSHA publications, send a self-addressed mailing label to this address: OSHA Publications Office, P.O. Box 37535, Washington, DC 20013-7535; or send a request to our fax at (202) 693-2498, or call us at (202) 693-1888.

- Order OSHA publications online at www.osha.gov. Go to **Publications** and follow the instructions for ordering.
- To file a complaint by phone, report an emergency, or get OSHA advice, assistance, or products, contact your nearest OSHA office under the “U.S. Department of Labor” listing in your phone book, or call us toll-free at **(800) 321-OSHA (6742)**. The teletypewriter (TTY) number is (877) 889-5627.
- To file a complaint online or obtain more information on OSHA federal and state programs, visit OSHA’s website.

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies, or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements or carry the force of legal opinion. For compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to *Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations*. This information will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone (202) 693-1999. See also OSHA’s website at www.osha.gov.

