



HAZARDOUS WORKPLACE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2024

Sponsor: Rep. Henry Cuellar

The Hazardous Workplace Accountability Act of 2024 would direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue a standard that requires safety data sheets for hazardous chemicals be provided in both English and Spanish. With over 40 million individuals speaking Spanish in the United States, this standard will ensure Spanish-speaking workers who are exposed to hazardous chemicals are provided with information on how to safely handle these chemicals.¹

Background

OSHA, a sector of the U.S. Department of Labor, is responsible for ensuring workers have safe and healthy working conditions. They provide trainings, enforce and set standards, and enforce anti-retaliation provisions of the OSH Act.² Section 1910.1200 of the OSHA's Occupation Safety and Health Standards mandates that safety data sheets for hazardous chemicals are required to be in English, but translation to other languages is only an option.

Safety Data Sheets

The primary use of these safety data sheets (SDSs) is to provide important information on various hazardous chemicals workers are exposed to. They outline health hazards, different protective measures, and safety precautions for handling, storing, and transporting these types of chemicals. The sheets also highlight employer responsibilities including SDSs accessibility.

Endorsements

American Federation of Government Employees, Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs, International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers (SMART), National Education Association, United Steelworkers

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, "S101 Language Spoken at Home," 2022.

² Occupational Safety and Health Administration, "About OSHA."