



# WisCon Words of Wisdom

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## WisCon Monthly Webinars

Last month we announced that the WisCon Weekly Webinars from the past two years were being discontinued in favor of longer workshop type webinars occurring on a monthly basis.

These webinars will occur on the third Thursday of every month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Interested individuals must register through Eventbrite to attend each webinar session.

### Upcoming Topics and Dates:

March 16th: Hazard Communication Standard

[Eventbrite Registration](#)

April 20th: Noise and Hearing Conservation (REP)

[Eventbrite Registration](#)

May 18th: Hexavalent Chromium (NEP)

[Eventbrite Registration](#)

June 15th: Heat Stress (NEP)

[Eventbrite Registration](#)

Participant capacity is limited.  
Register today!

Questions? Contact Kelli Humber at [kelli.humber@slh.wisc.edu](mailto:kelli.humber@slh.wisc.edu)

## March Is National Ladder Safety Month

For the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the American Ladder Institute (ALI) is spearheading National Ladder Safety Month this March. This program promotes ladder safety on and off the job with sponsors including Gorilla Ladders, Louisville Ladder, Werner®, and others.

**Why is ladder safety so important?** It's estimated that more than 150,000 emergency room-treated injuries and at least 300 deaths in the U.S. are attributed to falls from ladders. Preliminary numbers (Final numbers are typically posted in April) indicate that the standard for ladders in construction ([29 CFR 1926.1053](#)) is the fourth most cited OSHA standard for federal fiscal year 2022. This is a slight improvement from fiscal year 2021 where the standard held the third spot for most frequently cited.

**What's planned for National Ladder Safety Month?** This year the ALI is focused on providing education on the following topics:

- Choosing Your Ladder,
- Safety Before the First Step (Inspection and Set Up),
- Safety While Climbing,
- and Safety at the Top.

The National Ladder Safety Month website provides information about how to participate, the ALI, previous years' webinar recordings, and other free resources promoting ladder safety. If you use a ladder at work or at home, their [website](#) has beneficial information for you.

## OSHA's Updated Site-Specific Targeting Inspection Plan

OSHA's updated SST Inspection Plan became effective on February 7, 2023. This plan focuses on performing programmed inspections for general industry establishments that have 20 or more employees using injury and illness data submitted by establishments from calendar years 2019-2021. SHARP companies will be deferred for these scheduled inspections while they remain SHARP, while others with WisCon consultation visits "in progress" will be deferred for 90 days. More information on the SST plan can be found [here](#).

## Eye and Face Protection

### Did you know that March is also Workplace Eye Wellness Month?

This effort is organized by [Prevent Blindness](#) organization. As with ladders, the Eye and Face Protection standard in construction particularly is on OSHA's 10 Most Frequently Cited Standards list. The OSHA standard for Eye and Face Protection for Construction is [29 CFR 1926.102](#) and the standard for General Industry is [29 CFR 1910.133](#).

As an injury to ourselves can be detrimental to both our work and home life, it is vital that employers provide and we as employees wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including eye and face protection, where and as appropriate.

**Where should eye or face protection be worn?** Generally speaking, you should wear protection when exposed to an eye or face hazard. These hazards may include instances where the eye and face are exposed to flying particles, molten metal, acids, bases, or other liquid chemical, chemical gases or vapors, and light radiation.

### What are the most common types of eye and face protection?

Three of the most common types of eye and face protection include safety glasses, safety goggles, and face shields.

Safety Glasses are designed to stop large, physical objects like wood chips or other flying particles from injuring your eye. They have shatter-resistant lenses made from materials such as polycarbonate and feature side shields. Models of safety glasses have been manufactured to wear over prescription lenses; however, safety glasses can also be made with prescription lenses or bifocals, if needed. Safety glasses offer little to no protection against vapors.

Safety Goggles are tight-fitting and worn using a strap that goes around your head. They cover the eyes and the immediate facial area around the eye providing protection from impacts, dusts, mists, and splashes. Safety goggles can come in vented and non-vented frames. Non-vented goggles can protect the eyes from vapors and mists.

Face Shields provide general protection to the face from a variety of hazards including flying debris and chemical splashes. Face shields are not stand-alone eye protection. Where eye protection is required, either safety glasses or safety goggles should be worn under a face shield.

Any protective eye or face device should comply with either ANSI Z87.1-1989, ANSI Z87.1-2003, or ANSI/ISEA Z87.1-2010.

## Hazard Communication and GHS

Whether you work in general industry, construction, or healthcare hazard communication is relevant to almost every facility and employer. This is likely why the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS), [29 CFR 1910.1200](#), is one of OSHA's most cited standards year after year.

More than ten years ago, the HCS was aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). However, many of the clients that WisCon serves aren't fully aware of the requirements put into place from that alignment before requesting a consultation visit. Where this is the case, common hazards that are typically identified include the need for a written program, to keep and maintain safety data sheets (SDSs), and employee training.

Before the alignment, employers were required to keep material safety data sheets (MSDSs) for chemical products used in the workplace. MSDSs varied greatly in document structure and information. The GHS alignment brought about the change from keeping MSDSs to more standardized SDSs. SDSs are written in a standard 16-section format, contain signal words, universal hazard and precautionary statements, and hazard pictograms. This is just one difference between the HCS before and after GHS alignment.

If this is sounding new to you maybe your company's hazard communication program isn't compliant with the current HCS. Good news for you, WisCon is having a webinar on March 16th focusing on the HCS. See the WisCon Monthly Webinars section on the first page.

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