



WisCon Words of Wisdom

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June Awareness Topics

June 2-8: [National Trailer Safety Week](#)

June 11: [National Ride to Work Day](#)

All Month Long: [National Safety Month](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Public Sector:

June 25th: [Heat Stress](#)

August 27th: [Confined Space Hazard Awareness](#)

October 29th: [Work-related Asthma](#)

December 17th: [Walking/Working Surfaces—Slips, Trips, and Falls](#)

We want to hear from you!

What content would you like to see in an upcoming newsletter? Let us know [here](#).

Forward Movement On A Heat Standard

Early last month, OSHA [announced](#) that the DOL has taken another step closer to publishing a proposed rule regarding heat exposures in both indoor and outdoor work settings. This step entailed OSHA presenting the draft rule's initial framework at a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health. The committee reportedly recommended for OSHA to move forward on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

As the efforts of OSHA continue to bring a heat related standard into law, OSHA compliance officers can still issue citations under the general duty clause. The [National Emphasis Program \(NEP\) – Outdoor and Indoor Heat-Related Hazards](#) that launched in 2022 is still effective. This means that compliance officers may target their enforcement efforts at those industries where heat-related illnesses are prevalent.

As the weather warms, consider evaluating and updating your Heat Illness Prevention Plan.

June is National Safety Month

The National Safety Council (NSC) designated June as an annual observance to keep everyone safe in and out of the workplace. For the past 28 years, National Safety Month (NSM) has provided safety resources to use all month long to prevent fatalities and other injuries. This year, the NSM's weekly topics focus on the following:

- June 1-8: Safety Engagement
- June 9-15: Roadway Safety
- June 16-22: Risk Reduction
- June 23-30: Slips, Trips and Falls

For more information or to sign up to get those free safety resources, visit the NSC's [National Safety Month webpage](#).

Updates for the Hazard Communication Standard

On May 20, 2024, OSHA published a [final rule](#) in the Federal Register that updates the Hazard Communication (HazCom) standard ([29 CFR 1910.1200](#)). These updates take effect July 19, 2024.

First established in 1983, the HazCom standard was revised in 2012 to align with the 3rd revision of the United Nations' (UN) Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). This new revision to the HazCom standard now aligns closely to the 7th revision of the UN GHS.

The new updates to the standard include revisions for the following:

- Hazard information on trade secret chemicals available on safety data sheets (SDSs)
- Classification for certain health and physical hazards
- Precautionary statements on container labeling
- Information for who to call when help is needed regarding the contents of SDSs.

In addition to aligning with the 7th revision of the UN GHS, the final rule also addresses issues that were identified in

the implementation of the 2012 update and improves alignment with other U.S. agencies.

Included in a [News Release](#), OSHA believes that workers will benefit from the changes to the standard as these changes provide a clearer understanding of the hazard classification process and include additional hazard information on container labeling and SDSs.

Although these updates take effect July 19, 2024, OSHA is giving employers time to comply with the new rules. Chemical manufacturers, importers, and distributors have until January 19, 2026 to comply if they are evaluating substances and until July 19, 2027 to comply if they are evaluating mixtures. Similarly, employers must update their HazCom program, labels, and employee training by July 20, 2026 or January 19, 2028, depending on if they're working with substances or mixtures.

Just like the rest of the profession, WisCon Consultants will be taking time to review the final rule and digest the new requirements it contains. We hope to gain a better understanding of the rule as time passes and as additional information is made available so that we can help our clients navigate this transition.

Lockout/Tagout – Minor Servicing Exemption

The control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout [LOTO]) standard, [29 CFR 1910.147](#), covers the servicing and maintenance of machines and equipment where the unexpected start up or release of stored energy could cause injury to employees. However, the application portion of the standard includes an exemption for minor tool changes, adjustments, and other minor servicing activities that take place during normal production operations.

For this exemption to apply, the activity must be performed during normal production operations.

Secondly, the activity must be:

- Routine – It's a regular procedure and is in accordance with established practices and;
- Repetitive – It must be regularly repeated as part of the production process and;
- Integral – It's essential to the process.

If all of these apply, the employer still has to use alternative ways to provide protection from the hazardous energy. This may include using local disconnects, specialty tools, interlocked guards, or remote devices.

If the minor servicing exception is not met in its entirety, the LOTO standard applies.

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