



## PENNSYLVANIA WORKER & COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW ACT – 159 OF 1984

Pennsylvania citizens and workers have a “right to know” about chemical hazards present where they live and work. The Pennsylvania Worker and Community Right to Know Act created a system for communicating information about these chemicals. Persons living or working in Pennsylvania have access to this important information. The law helps to protect the health and safety of everyone by increasing public awareness about exposure to chemicals; hazards associated with such exposure; and safe and proper handling procedures.

The law states that employers (including public sector employers) are required to:

- Post a Workplace Notice, which lists employee rights under the law.
- Complete and post a Hazardous Substance Survey Form annually, by April 1 of each year, and provide it to the Department of Labor & Industry, if requested.
- Collect and maintain a file of Safety Data Sheets. These SDSs give detailed information on each hazardous substance in the workplace. The SDSs must be made available to employees without intervention of a supervisor.
  - Complete an Environmental Hazard Survey Form, if requested by the department, and make it available to employees.
  - Label all containers and ports of pipelines containing hazardous substances or hazardous mixtures in the workplace.
- Label workplace containers and ports of pipelines containing any chemical.
- Provide an annual training program for employees exposed to hazardous substances.
- Maintain employee health and exposure records and make these records available to employees.
- Provide copies of the Hazardous Substance Survey Form, Environmental Hazard Survey Form, and Safety Data Sheets to local emergency response organizations, if requested.

Please be advised that as of April 1, 2020, DCIU has revised and updated the SDS books and hazardous substance survey forms in accordance with the Pennsylvania Worker and Community Right to Know Act (Act 159) for the Technical High Schools.