Overview of OSHA

- Created by Congress in 1970 under the “Occupational Safety and Health Act”

- Mission: “…to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions…”
OSHA’s Jurisdiction

- Nearly all private-sector employers and employees in the 50 states and U.S. territories
- Excludes self-employed, family farm workers and most government employees
OSHA’s Role in Developing Standards

- The Occupational Safety and Health Act

Section (2)(b)(3): “...by authorizing the Secretary of Labor to set mandatory occupational safety and health standards applicable to businesses affecting interstate commerce...”
OSHA’s Role in Addressing Safety and Health Hazards

- Promulgate occupational safety and health standards
- Enforce OSHA standards and the “General Duty Clause”
- Provide guidance, outreach and compliance assistance
OSHA’S HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD

29 CFR 1910.1200
A THREE-PRONGED SYSTEM

- Hazard Communication
  - Manufacturers: Hazard Determination
  - Manufacturers: Material Safety Data Sheets Labels
  - Employers: Written Program Information Training
REQUIREMENTS: HAZARD DETERMINATION

- Manufacturers or importers must determine whether chemicals are health or physical hazards using available evidence.
- OSHA does not maintain a list of covered hazardous chemicals, but there is a “floor” of chemicals, which includes...
REQUIREMENTS: Floor List

- Chemicals regulated by OSHA in substance specific standards
- Chemicals listed in 29 CFR 1910.1000, Air Contaminants
- Chemicals listed in ACGIH’s TLV booklet
REQUIREMENTS:

- Manufacturers must ensure that each container of hazardous chemicals leaving the workplace has
  - Label
  - MSDS
Hazard Determination

- No testing is required
- If testing is done, it must be done by using validated test methods
- The studies must be performed in a scientifically sound manner
- Must use all available information
  - Information for hazard determination can be obtained from existing literature in public domain.
Test results from a validated study must be considered in Hazard Determination