

## **HAZCOM Frequently Asked Questions**

The following Frequently Asked Questions were taken from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) website. For more information visit:

<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/whatishazcom.html>

### **Do office workers need to take Hazcom?**

Office workers who encounter hazardous chemicals only in isolated instances are not covered by the rule. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) considers most office products (such as pens, pencils, adhesive tape) to be exempt under the provisions of the rule, either as articles or as consumer products. For example, one employer specifically mentioned copy toner. OSHA has previously stated that intermittent or occasional use of a copying machine does not result in coverage under the rule. However, if an employee handles the chemicals to service the machine, or operates it for long periods of time, then the program would have to be applied.

### **How does Hazcom apply to pharmaceutical drugs?**

The Hazard Communication Standard only applies to pharmaceuticals that the drug manufacturer has determined to be hazardous and that are known to be present in the workplace in such a manner that employees are exposed under normal conditions of use or in a foreseeable emergency.

### **How do temporary workers get Hazcom training?**

In meeting the requirements of OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, the temporary agency employer would, for example, be expected to provide generic hazard training and information concerning categories of chemicals employees may potentially encounter. Host employers would then be responsible for providing site-specific hazard training.