

CHEMICAL HAZARDS

The Board is committed to providing a safe environment for students and employees. It is the policy of MSAD 55 to follow safe practices in regard to the storage and handling of hazardous chemicals in its schools, and to comply with all applicable Maine and federal laws and regulations concerning hazardous chemicals.

The Superintendent/designee has responsibility for the safe handling and storage of hazardous chemicals in schools, the development of required written plans, the designation of a Chemical Hygiene Officer, and ensuring that staff is trained with respect to chemical hazards found in the workplace. Written plans shall include information regarding proper purchasing, labeling, storage, training, handling, and disposal of hazardous chemicals.

Hazcom (Hazard Communication) Standards

MSAD 55 will comply with OSHA's Hazard Communication standard 29 CFR 1910.1200, as adopted and enforced by the Maine Department of Labor, which requires a written hazard communication (HazCom) plan, including a listing of chemicals being used in the schools; training of employees that handle these chemicals; and, for all employees, where material safety data sheets (MSDS) are located, and how to read them. This standard applies to hazard communications for hazardous chemicals such as those used in cleaning and disinfection, which may be found in custodial and food service areas, among other locations.

Laboratory Science Chemicals

MSAD 55 will comply with OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.1450, as adopted and enforced by the Maine Department of Labor, which addresses science laboratory chemicals. This standard applies to science laboratory chemicals commonly found in chemistry and biology laboratories in schools.

The Superintendent will appoint an employee of MSAD 55 as Chemical Hygiene Officer. The Chemical Hygiene Officer will be responsible for developing and implementing a Chemical Hygiene Plan, to be reviewed annually, that includes procedures relevant to the identification, purchase, storage, inventory, handling, and disposal of hazardous chemicals used in science laboratories; maintenance of material safety data sheets (MSDS) for laboratory chemicals; and ensuring that employees with science/laboratory responsibilities are provided appropriate training on the specific hazards associated with the chemicals being used in school laboratories and how to read the MSDS for these chemicals.

The person appointed Chemical Hygiene Officer must be an employee of MSAD 55, and preferably a science teacher or another staff member who is knowledgeable about the chemicals being used in school laboratories and stored in the schools.

Legal Reference: 29 C.F.R. §§ 1910.1200, 1910.1450
 26 M.R.S.A. § 565
 Me. Dept. of Prof. Regulation Rule Ch. 2 § 179
 Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule Ch. 161
 Commissioner's Administrative Letter No. 33, June 9, 2005 (Chemicals in Schools)

Cross Reference: EBCA – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

Adopted: July 6, 2016