

Right to Know Review

Debbie Wolfe-Lopez

Georgia Tech

Chemical Safety Coordinator

Georgia Tech Environmental Health and Safety

Department Front Office.....	4-4636
Spills/Waste- Ed Pozniak.....	4-6224
Bio-Hazard- Lee Zacarias.....	4-6119
Physical Safety- Alton Chin-Shue.....	5-0263
(Electrical Safety, Ergonomics, Lock-out-tag-out)	
Fire Marshal- Vic Rachael.....	4-2990
Chem-Hazard- D. Wolfe-Lopez.....	5-2964
(Also Noise, Laser & Other Non-ionizing Radiation, Asbestos)	

- <http://www.safety.gatech.edu/>



Applicable Laws and Regulations

- Does Not Apply-OSHA regulations referenced as “best management practices” only
- Does Apply- Georgia Public Employees Hazardous Chemical Protection and Right to Know Law also known as RTK

What Products are *NOT* Covered Under This Law?

- Chemicals being transported in state as part of a shipment in interstate or intrastate commerce
- Chemicals covered by the Federal Atomic Energy Act and the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- Alcoholic beverages and articles intended for personal consumption.
- Consumer products that are used in the workplace in the same manner as normal consumer use.
- *Products used in routine cleaning and painting operations **are covered***

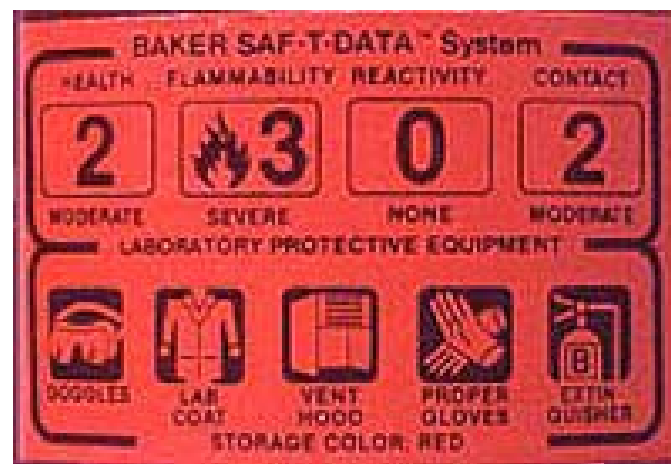


Some Issues Addressed By the Law

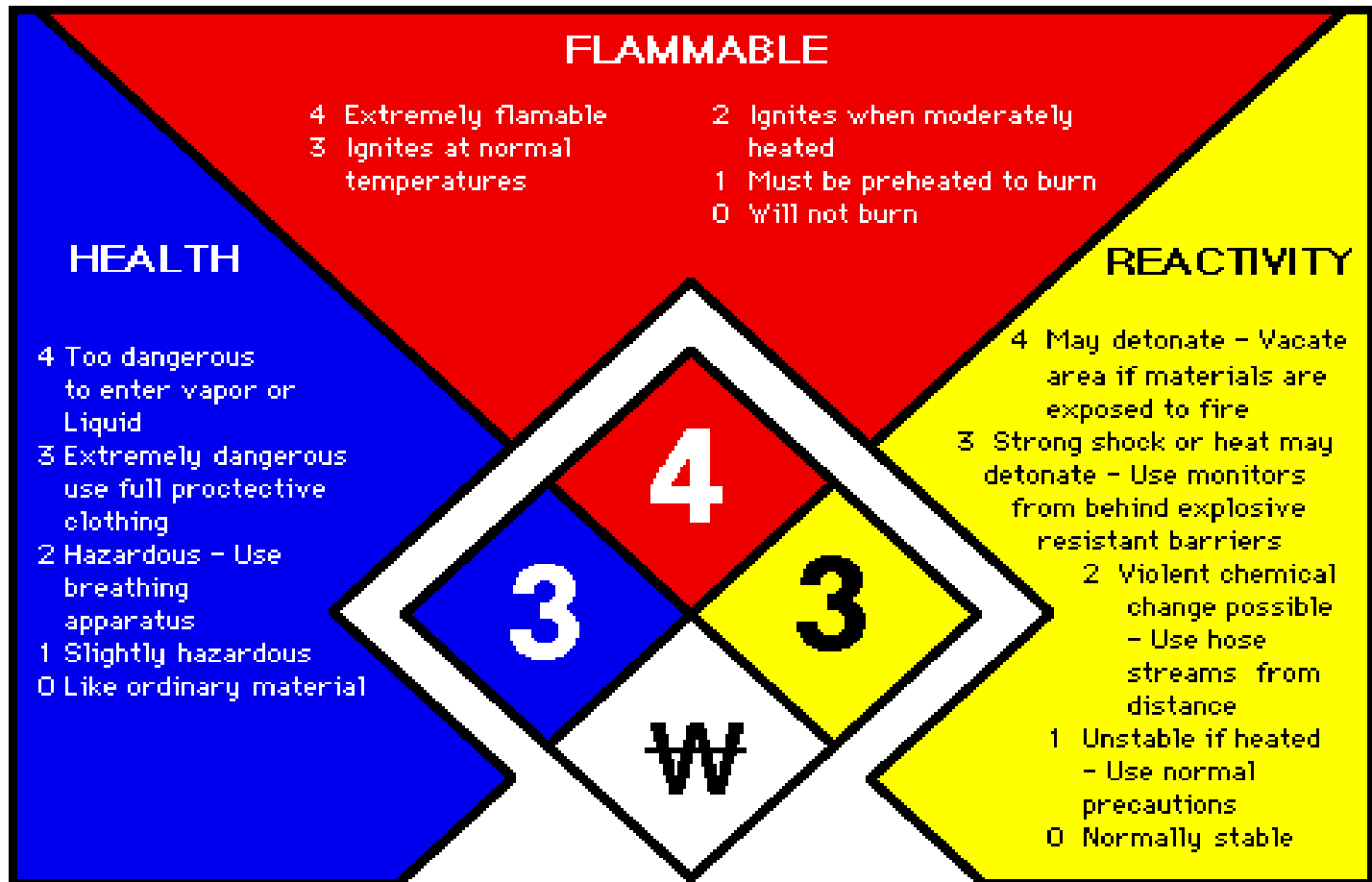
- Labeling
- Inventory
- Access to Hazard Information
- Training
- Protection from Reprisals
- Right to File Grievance

Labeling

- Only one Rule at Georgia Tech- Label everything (even if it is meant for immediate use)
- Label must have name of chemical, manufacturer, and hazard information (exception is immediate use- name only ok)
- Don't deface labels unless the container is empty and washed



NFPA



Biannual Inventory

- Section 45-22-5, Hazardous Chemical List
 - Law Requires biannual inventory- due to EH&S by Mid December and Mid June
 - Under Chematix system, effective December '05, Chemical Inventory must be *reconciled* between January 1 and June 15 and again between July 1 and December 15.

MSDS

- 45-22-7 MSDS, notice to employees, rights of employees
 - Employers are responsible for making MSDS available to employees on request for any chemical to which the employee has been exposed
 - Employee may refuse to continue work if MSDS not provided within 5 days

MSDS

- MSDS may be kept in electronic format- but be sure you can retrieve and print them out in an emergency
 - www.hazard.com
 - www.safety.gatech.edu
 - www.chematix.gatech.edu

Training

- Section 45-22-8 All Employees Shall Be Trained In:
 - The requirements of this law
 - What a material safety data sheet is, how to read it
 - Any operations in his/her work area where hazardous chemicals are present
 - The location and availability of training programs

Training

- His right to receive information regarding hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- His right for his physician to receive information regarding hazardous chemical to which he may have been exposed
- His right against discharge or other discrimination due to the employee's exercise of his rights under this chapter

There is No “Legal” Format for an MSDS

- However, a generally accepted format ,
from American National Standards Institute
is:
 - Section 1- Product and Manufacturer
Identification
 - Section 2- Chemical and common names of
hazardous ingredients
 - Section 3- Physical and Chemical Properties

Sections 4-10

- Section 4- Physical Hazards (fire & explosion)
- Section 5- Toxicity Data
- Section 6- Health Hazards
- Section 7- Storage and Handling Procedures
- Section 8- Emergency First Aid Procedures
- Section 9- Disposal Considerations
- Section 10- Transportation Information

Other Sections Sometimes Seen

- Fire fighting Measures
- Reactivity Data
- Ecological Data
- Disposal Information
- Regulatory Information
- Miscellaneous Information

For RTK, Chemical, and Waste
Training on line
and for the Ga Tech Lab Safety
Manual

<http://www.safety.gatech.edu>

Employees' Rights

- Section 45-22-11- employees may file grievances (with the employer's established grievance policy) if their employer does not comply with this law

Your Responsibilities as a Supervisor

- Under RTK the employee must be trained in any operation in his/her work place where hazardous chemicals may be present
- Under the Ga Tech Business Plan Chapter 10.6 Chemical Specific Training must come from the department- therefore it must come from you- no one else can train people on the specific hazards of your area but you or an experienced/ senior employee that you designate

How to Do This

- Create a new employee orientation check list with everything a new employee needs to know- from where safety showers, eyewashes and fire extinguishers are located to how to call for a waste pick up.
 - Teach them how to use shared equipment correctly and safely- this will prolong the working life of the equipment and lower the chances of injuries.

- Have written SOPs for all routine procedures
 - Make sure that everyone knows how to access the GA Tech Lab Safety Manual
- Have the student/new employee sign the checklist once orientation is complete.
- Conduct Monthly meetings
 - Discuss recent safety concerns or show a safety video (find list of available videos at www.safety.gatech.edu)

Managing Chemicals

- Some examples of what not to do



Notice corrosion on shelf under leaking bottle



Damage from leaking chemical



DESTROYED Coleman's lab after the April 8 explosion and fire at Ohio State.

COURTESY OF OSU