

If-Needed Statement

OSHA's Worker Hazard Communication Standard Aberdeen Plant

Date approved for use: June 2, 1986

Sunday, May 25, was the deadline for full compliance with the new Hazard Communication Program promulgated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). This standard requires all manufacturers, transporters and users of a wide range of listed chemicals to develop procedures for evaluating the workplace hazards of those chemicals pertinent to their operations, following specific OSHA guidelines, and to produce or obtain a material safety data sheet (MSDS) for each. In addition, all workplace containers with hazardous chemicals must meet expanded labeling requirements. Finally, all employees handling or working with hazardous chemicals must receive training in the specific hazards associated with those materials.

Vista Chemical fully supports the purpose of the new standard, which is to provide effective communication of potential hazards to workers, customers and others handling hazardous chemicals. Although Vista had to implement certain administrative measures to fully comply with the final regulations—such as posting additional signs in our plants for specific chemical hazards and obtaining updated or expanded MSDSs from our suppliers—the company has long been a leader in complying with the goal of the regulations. For example, even prior to Vista's formation in 1984, when it purchased the assets of Conoco Chemicals from Du Pont, the company had taken the lead in preparing MSDSs for its products. The company's regular safety training programs for employees and others working in our plants have for many years provided information on specific chemical hazards at each location. The new measures only add to Vista's existing workplace hazard communication efforts.

All plants operated by Vista Chemical Company are in full compliance with OSHA's new Worker Hazard Communication Standard.

Use the following material only in response to specific questions from the media:

Q #1. What hazardous chemicals do you have in your plant?

A #1. Although none of the products leaving the Aberdeen plant—various grades of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resins, dryblends and compounds—are considered hazardous

by OSHA standards, we do handle large volumes of certain hazardous chemicals, such as vinyl chloride and some alcohols. In addition, we maintain relatively small quantities of many other chemicals, such as compounds of lead, antimony and acids, which OSHA has listed as hazardous.

Q #2. How has the new standard been implemented in your plant?

A #2. We have evaluated the hazardous properties of each of the chemicals used in our plant, prepared or obtained the required MSDSs from our suppliers and taken steps to label all containers holding these chemicals or to post all areas of the plant where they are present. Plans are already underway to update our existing employee training programs to include information on additional chemical hazards.

We at Vista are proud of our long record as a leader in the chemical industry for maintaining a safe and hazard-free workplace for all our employees and the local community. We welcome and support measures such as the new OSHA standards, whose purpose is to increase the safety of all who manufacture, transport or use hazardous chemicals through more effective communication about their potential hazards.

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