

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3481

To require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to recognize that electronic forms of providing MSDSs provide the same level of access to information as paper copies.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 1998

Mr. ROEMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to recognize that electronic forms of providing MSDSs provide the same level of access to information as paper copies.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. OSHA RECOGNITION OF ELECTRONIC MSDS'S.**

4       Section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health  
5       Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655(b)) is amended by adding at  
6       the end the following:

7               “(9) Not later than 90 days after the date of  
8       enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall

1 promulgate a rule to clarify that an employer com-  
2 plies with the standard contained in section  
3 1910.1200(g) of title 29, Code of Federal Regula-  
4 tions, if the employer makes information on each  
5 hazardous chemical used in the workplace readily ac-  
6 cessible (available for retrieval within 24 hours, or  
7 immediately in the case of an emergency) to employ-  
8 ees through electronic access or other alternatives to  
9 paper copies.”.

10 **SEC. 2. STANDARDIZATION FORMAT FOR MSDS’S.**

11 Section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health  
12 Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655(b)) (as amended by section  
13 1), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(10)(A) Not later than 90 days after the date  
15 of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall  
16 modify the regulations contained in section  
17 1910.1200 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations,  
18 to require a standard format for presenting informa-  
19 tion on hazardous chemicals as required under such  
20 section. Such format shall provide that the required  
21 information be provided in a uniform and consistent  
22 manner.

23 “(B) The standard format under subparagraph  
24 (A) shall require information on all new hazardous  
25 chemicals produced, imported, or used to be pre-

1       sented at a literacy proficiency level that is substan-  
2       tially equivalent to Literacy Level 2 as defined by  
3       the Department of Education in the National Center  
4       for Education Statistics, 1992 Adult Literacy  
5       Survey.

6               “(C) The modifications required under this  
7       paragraph shall become effective not later than 3  
8       years after the date of enactment of this  
9       paragraph.”.

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