

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1855

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24, 1998

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

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## A BILL

To require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to recognize that electronic forms of providing MSDS's 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Workplace Information  
5       Readability and Electronic Dissemination Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OSHA RECOGNITION OF ELECTRONIC MSDS'S.**

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

5 “(9) Not later than 90 days after the date of  
6 enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall  
7 promulgate a rule to clarify that an employer com-  
8 plies with the standard contained in section  
9 1910.1200(g) of title 29, Code of Federal Regula-  
10 tions, that requires the employer to maintain infor-  
11 mation on each hazardous chemical used in the  
12 workplace if the information is readily accessible  
13 (available for retrieval within 24 hours, or imme-  
14 diately in the case of an emergency) to employees  
15 through electronic access or other alternatives to  
16 paper copies.”.

17 **SEC. 3. STANDARDIZED FORMAT FOR MSDS'S.**

18 Section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health  
19 Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655(b)) (as amended by section  
20 2), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(10)(A) Not later than 90 days after the date  
22 of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall  
23 modify the regulations contained in section  
24 1910.1200 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations,  
25 to require a standard format for presenting informa-  
26 tion on hazardous chemicals as required under such

1 section. Such format shall provide that the required  
2 information be provided in a uniform and consistent  
3 manner.

4 “(B) The standard format under subparagraph  
5 (A) shall require information on all new hazardous  
6 chemicals produced, imported, or used to be pre-  
7 sented at a literacy proficiency level that is substan-  
8 tially equivalent to Literacy Level 2 as defined by  
9 the Department of Education in the National Center  
10 for Education Statistics, 1992 Adult Literacy Sur-  
11 vey.

12 “(C) The modifications required under this  
13 paragraph shall become effective not later than 3  
14 years after the date of enactment of this para-  
15 graph.”.

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