



## U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

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| <b>Report:</b>                | Combustible Dust Hazard Study                      |
| <b>Recommendation Number:</b> | 2006-1-H-R2  |
| <b>Date Issued:</b>           | November 9, 2006                                   |
| <b>Recipient:</b>             | Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) |
| <b>New Status:</b>            | R2: Closed – Acceptable Action                     |
| <b>Date of Status Change:</b> | April 13, 2016                                     |

### Recommendation Text:

*Revise the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) (1910.1200) to:*

- *Clarify that the HCS covers combustible dusts, including those materials that may reasonably be anticipated to generate combustible dusts through downstream processing or handling.*
- *Require Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) to include the hazards and physical properties of combustible dusts, as well as clear information on safe handling practices and references to relevant consensus standards.*

### Board Status Change Decision:

#### A. Rationale for Recommendation

After investigating three catastrophic dust explosions that killed 14 workers in 2003, the CSB initiated a study of dust explosions in general industry and what could be done to reduce their risk. The CSB study identified 281 combustible dust incidents that occurred between 1980 and 2005 that killed 119 workers and injured 718, and extensively damaged industrial facilities. These incidents occurred in 44 states, in many different industries, and involved a variety of different materials

Following the issuance of the Combustible Dust Hazard Study on November 9, 2006, the CSB recommended that OSHA: issue standards to prevent combustible dust fires; revise its Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to better advise employers and employees about the potential explosion hazards of combustible dusts; provide enhanced training to its inspectors; and implement a national Special Emphasis Program for combustible dust hazards. This status change summary addresses only the Recommendation (e.g., 2006-I-H-R2) to revise the HCS.

#### B. Response to the Recommendation

OSHA revised its HCS, which became effective on May 25, 2012, to incorporate the United Nation's Globally Harmonized System (GHS), and also added combustible dust as a separate physical hazard class.

In February of 2016, OSHA released Publication No. 3844-02 entitled: *Hazard Communication: Hazard Classification Guidance for Manufacturers, Importers, and Employers*. Guidance on classification of combustible dusts is presented in Chapter VIII, Section 15, which includes recommendations for Safety Data Sheet (SDS)<sup>1</sup> preparation.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

As OSHA revised its HCS in 2012 to ensure that combustible dusts are covered and has issued appropriate compliance guidance for SDS preparation in February of 2016 that addresses all the elements listed under the second bullet of Recommendation No. 2006-1-H-R2, the Board voted to change the status of this recommendation to: **“Closed—Acceptable Action”**

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<sup>1</sup> Under the GHS, SDS replace MSDS