

# Essentials of dental assisting

Business, Human Resources



## Hazardous Chemicals And Those Exempted

OSHA regards a certain chemical as hazardous if it can pose a health or physical hazard. A health hazard is one that can cause chronic or acute health effects on someone. On the other hand, physical hazards may include compressed gases, organic peroxides, combustible liquids, explosives, oxidizers, flammables, unstable chemicals, and water-reactive ones.

Chemical importers and manufacturers have the obligation of evaluating chemicals in a bid to establish whether they pose health and physical hazards to people (Robinson & Bird, 2012, p. 74-79).

The Hazard Communication Standard does not cover certain product categories. These are wood and wooden products, foods, cosmetics, drugs, and alcoholic beverages packaged and sold for personal consumption. Drugs that health care providers and pharmacies dispense for patient use are not included in the labeling requirement. This also applies to over-the-counter drugs not to forget those drugs that employees consume while at the workplace like aspirin or even first aid supplies. While wood and its products are exempt from the labeling requirements, wood dust is included since it is regarded as a hazardous chemical (Robinson & Bird, 2012, p. 74-79).