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Milestones in Mining Safety and Health Technology

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HAZCOM HELPER COMPLIANCE TOOL FOR MSHA RULE 30 CFR PART 47

Objective

Develop tools that mine personnel can use to comply with 30 CFR, Part 47.

Background

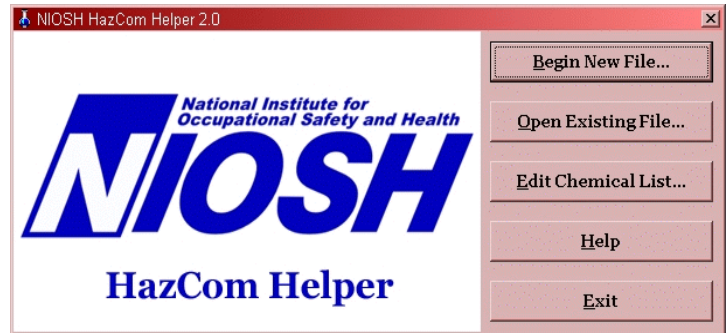
The new MSHA rule, 30 CFR, Part 47 (also known as the HazCom rule), requires all mines to develop a written program to track hazardous chemicals at their sites. More specifically, the rule requires that mines list all chemicals and determine which are hazardous; develop a written Hazard Communication Program; label all containers used to store hazardous chemicals; obtain or develop Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all chemicals stored or produced; provide miners with training in working around hazardous chemicals; and make information about hazardous chemicals available to all workers. All mines with six or more employees must have complied with the new rule by September 23, 2002, and mines with five or fewer employees will have to be in compliance by March 21, 2003.

Approach

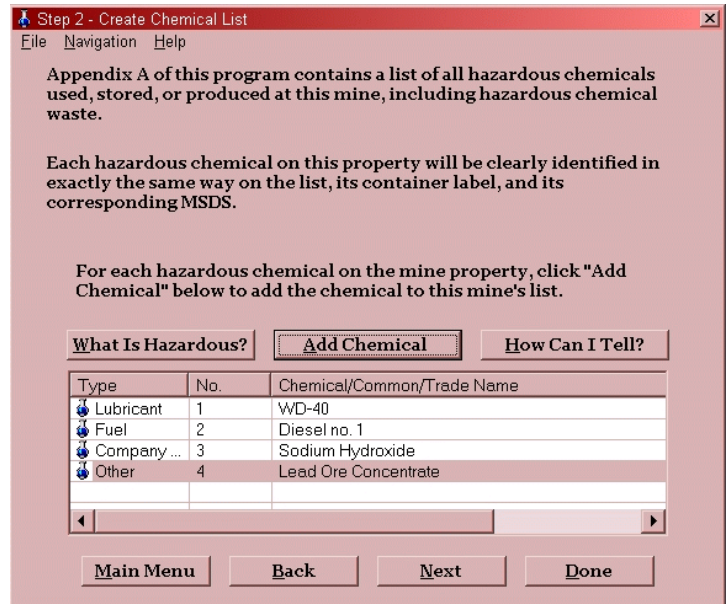
NIOSH personnel met with representatives from several mining companies and MSHA to discuss what NIOSH could do to help companies comply with the new rule. A significant problem identified was the nonavailability of software to enable writing the required HazCom plan and list all hazardous chemicals at a mine.

HazCom Helper

This software leads the person responsible for writing the HazCom plan step-by-step through its preparation. Prompts and suggestions are provided to help the writer fill in the proper information; the Help menu is also useful. Appendix A assists with writing a list of all



Introductory menu to HazCom Helper



Sample menu for HazCom Helper



hazardous chemicals at a site. The program can be saved and recalled at any time so it can be updated whenever necessary. The program can be downloaded from www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining_HAZCOM/default.htm. A CD version of the HazCom program can be obtained from the address below.

For More Information

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To receive additional information about occupational safety and health problems, call **1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674)**, or visit the NIOSH Web site at www.cdc.gov/niosh

Mention of any company name or product does not constitute endorsement by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.