New FDA Sunscreen Rules

Sunscreen products sold over the counter must now carry information that clarifies how well they protect against both ultraviolet B and A radiation, thanks to testing and labeling requirements announced by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A product labeled "broad spectrum" SPF [#] will have passed a test of its protection against UVA radiation—up to now sun protection factor (SPF) values have only indicated a product's UVB protection. Other FDA findings and recommendations have not changed:

- limit the time spent outdoors, especially between 10am and 2pm
- cover the skin with clothing (hat, sunglasses, pants, long-sleeved shirt)
- use water-resistant sunscreen if swimming ("waterproof" is a term no longer allowed) and follow the label's guidelines on when to reapply
- products labeled broad spectrum SPF 15 or higher are the only ones that can claim to reduce cancer risk (SPF values higher than 50 do not provide any additional benefit)
- sunscreen ingredients are safe (and will continue to be monitored by the FDA)

The requirements announced in June also apply to other cosmetic products that contain sunscreen.

FDA - www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/UnderstandingOver-the-CounterMedicines/ucm239463.htm

Going Global

Chemical manufacturers and importers must test their products for health and environmental hazards and then communicate this information through labels and data sheets. Since 2003, the criteria for classifying chemicals, as well as the words and pictograms to express the hazard information, have been agreed at an international level, as the Globally Harmonized Standard of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). In August OSHA plans to modify its Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) to align it with the GHS. The modifications will affect Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), and worker training on the new labels and MSDS will be required within two years. A GHS-aligned system will benefit both companies and workers. Manufacturers involved in international trade will have a reduced burden of compliance, since shipping a product to various countries has needed multiple labels and safety data sheets, and an estimated 40+ million workers in more than 5 million workplaces will benefit from better understanding of consistent information.

OSHA (Facts on Aligning the Hazard Communication Standard to the GHS) - www.osha.gov/as/opa/facts-hcs-ghs.html
(How with the GHS impact existing regulations?) - www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html#2.3
OSHA Observer (Getting Ready for GHS) - www.oshaobserver.com/getting-ready-for-ghs/

A New Day for Job Seekers

Job searching is a tough process in the 21st century, and 20th-century approaches and advice, such as sending a resume or broadening a job search or relying on your qualifications, no longer have the same value. safetyXchange (8 Job Search Rules) - www.safetyxchange.org/featured/8-job-search-rules?utm_source=emailmarketer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3769

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