Handling Hazardous Material Awareness (HHMA)

HSE002

Course Description

The Handling Hazardous Material Awareness (HHMA) training program provides essential knowledge for individuals who may encounter hazardous substances or confined spaces in their work or surrounding environments. Designed at the awareness and initial operations levels, this course enables participants to recognize hazardous materials, understand their associated risks, and take the appropriate initial steps in case of exposure or emergency—without directly intervening in the incident.

The program also includes modules on confined space awareness, carbon monoxide hazards, and basic HAZMAT emergency response, equipping attendees with a comprehensive safety foundation for both typical and high-risk work settings.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand what constitutes hazardous materials, their classifications, and associated risks.
- Identify hazardous materials using warning labels, placards, pictograms, and Safety Data Sheets (SDS).
- Recognize indicators of hazardous material release and confined space hazards.
- Describe safe practices and basic controls to minimize risk of exposure or incidents.
- Initiate proper reporting and emergency procedures at the awareness level.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the regulatory frameworks governing hazardous materials and confined space entry.
- Foster a proactive safety culture within their workplace or community.

Who Should Attend

This course is designed for individuals who may encounter hazardous materials or confined space risks in their environment but are not responsible for directly handling or mitigating such hazards. Ideal participants include:

- General employees in offices, retail, medical, hospitality, or light industry
- Maintenance and facilities staff
- Administrative and clerical personnel
- Security and logistics staff
- Supervisors and managers
- First responders at the awareness level
- Members of the public with potential exposure risks (e.g., near industrial sites)

Course Duration

5 Working Days

Course Outlines

1. Introduction to Hazardous Materials
    - Definition and examples of hazardous materials (chemical, biological, radioactive)
    - Health, environmental, and legal impacts
    - Classification systems: GHS, UN classes, NFPA diamonds
    - Overview of hazard classes: flammable, corrosive, toxic, etc.
2. Recognizing and Identifying Hazards
    - GHS pictograms, hazard labels, and signage
    - Introduction to Safety Data Sheets (SDS): structure and key sections
    - UN/DOT placards for transportation
    - Visual, olfactory, and auditory cues of hazardous presence
    - Protective actions: evacuation vs. shelter-in-place
    - Emergency notification procedures
3. Confined Space Awareness
    - Definition and types of confined spaces (tanks, sewers, silos, etc.)
    - Hazard types: atmospheric (e.g., CO, H_2S), physical, and engulfment
    - Permit-required confined spaces and the "Don't Go In" principle
    - Emergency procedures and incident notification
4. Carbon Monoxide Awareness
    - Characteristics and dangers of carbon monoxide (colorless, odorless)
    - Common sources (generators, engines, heaters)
    - CO exposure symptoms and first aid
    - Initial response actions and CO detection devices
5. Basic Safety Controls and Emergency Response
    - Hierarchy of controls: elimination to PPE
    - Good housekeeping and spill prevention
    - PPE types and limitations (awareness level)
    - Emergency signs and actions
    - Reporting procedures and post-incident awareness

6. HAZMAT EMS Operations – Awareness to Initial Operations

- Introduction to OSHA HAZWOPER and local regulations
- Basics of toxicology and hazardous material chemistry
- Protective clothing (types, use, limitations)
- Containment and decontamination (awareness level)
- Basic gas monitoring equipment
- ERP implementation and basic drills

7. Regulatory and Legal Awareness

- Overview of OSHA, ADR, IATA regulations
- Responsibilities of employers and employees
- Safety documentation and training compliance