CPWR THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND TRAINING TOOLBOX TALK

Right to Know About Chemical Hazards: Nanomaterials

Nano-enabled products that contain engineered nanomaterials are becoming more common in construction. Some nanomaterials cause health problems in test animals and might pose a risk to workers. Workers have a right to be informed about hazardous chemicals they work with, including nanomaterials.

Jane's Story

Jane is working on a large project. There are many new materials being used by her and her co-workers. She's heard that some of the materials may contain engineered nanomaterials. Jane wants to know what rights she has to information about these new construction materials and what her employer should be doing to protect her health and safety when the materials are used.

- **What rights do workers have to information about hazardous chemicals they work with?**
- **Where can you find information about nano-enabled construction products?**

Remember This

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard gives workers the right to know about the hazardous chemicals they use: https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/interlinking/standards/1926.59.
- OSHA requires your employer to:
  - Train you about the Standard and about chemicals you will be exposed to on the job – including nano-enabled products and materials.
  - Protect you from exposure to hazardous products, even those used by other employers on the job site.
  - Give you access to Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for hazardous products on the job site.
  - Have a written hazard communication program.
- Know what to look for and where to find information:
  - Ask your employer if the product you are working with is nano-enabled.
  - Check the product label or the SDS. Be aware information on the nano content may not be reported.
  - Use CPWR's online inventory of nano-enabled construction materials at http://nano.elcosh.org to find information.
  - Visit the manufacturer's website. Manufacturers of nano-enabled construction materials often have information on how to safely use their product.
  - Check with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and OSHA for the latest information on nanomaterial hazards and guidance on how nano-enabled materials can be worked with safely.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do to find out if the products being used are nano-enabled and the health risks?

1. _____
   _____
2. _____
   _____

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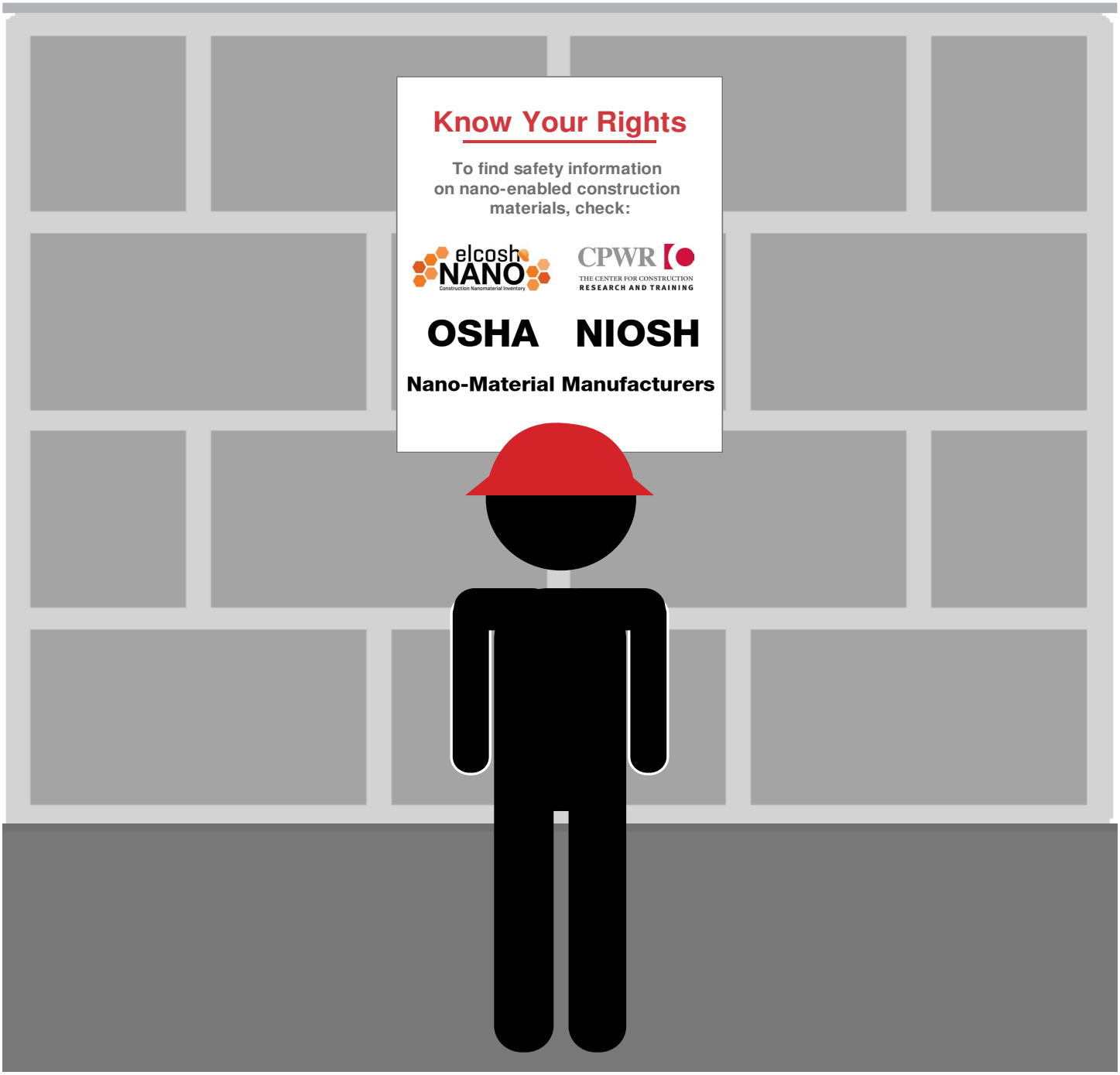

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