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## **Collaborative Teaching: Enhancing Understanding of Hazardous Chemical Regulations**

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Understanding the safe handling of hazardous chemicals is important among students as it helps to prepare the safety expectations and protocols they will encounter in their future workplaces. The Occupational Safety and Health Regulations (Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheet of Hazardous Chemicals) 2013, commonly referred to as the “CLASS 2013” regulations, are a set of regulations in Malaysia aimed at ensuring the safe handling of hazardous chemicals. The CLASS 2013 Regulations are important for students as they prepare them for safe chemical handling, ensure compliance with legal standards, foster a safety culture, improve efficiency and productivity, enhance career prospects, and promote personal well-being and safety.

On January 6, 2025, a collaborative teaching program was conducted online to introduce the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations (Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheet of Hazardous Chemicals) 2013 to students from the

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Biology, Food Technology, and Diploma in Food Technology programs. The session featured ChM. Sharifah Nurain Syed Nasir, an expert in Chemical Safety Management from the Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and was attended by 60 students.



Picture 1: Webinar poster

The primary objective of this program was to enhance students' awareness and understanding of the occupational safety and health regulations related to the classification, labeling, and safety data sheets of hazardous chemicals. Through the sharing of knowledge by experts,

students could gain deeper insights into the importance of safety in the workplace. In the context of occupational safety and health regulations, collaborative learning enables students to better understanding on how chemicals are classified as hazardous and how this affects workplace safety.

Besides that, students also learn about the importance of proper labeling to ensure the safe use of chemicals. This is important for students to know as it provides clear and standardized labeling that helps them understand the risks associated with specific chemicals. Furthermore, students learn how Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are used to provide comprehensive information about hazards and handling procedures for chemicals. SDSs are crucial documents that help them take preventive measures and handle emergencies.

Through collaborative teaching, students actively engaged with the speaker by asking insightful questions and sharing perspectives, which enhanced their understanding of the topic. This ensures that all students, regardless of their background or experience, getting ideas of managing risks and responding effectively to chemical-related incidents in the future. Not only students, collaborative teaching also allows educators with limited experience in CLASS 2013 regulations to gain their knowledge and develop

comprehensive understanding that cover all aspects of the occupational safety and health.

In conclusion, collaborative teaching is a powerful approach for enhancing the students' knowledge of occupational safety and health regulations but also developed essential skills required in the workplace. By leveraging the benefits of collaborative learning, students can become more prepared to face challenges in industries that demand high safety awareness.

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