

# Globally Harmonized System



- What does GHS stand for? Globally Harmonized System
- Why is the GHS important? Standardizes the classification of chemicals and how they're classified through hazard Statements, symbols, signal words
- Chemicals are a fundamental part of the world economy
- UN lays out the practices OSHA enforces them
- Lack of uniformity result in:
  - **1. mishandling of chemicals**
  - 2. misunderstood labels
  - 3. additional paperwork
- When global trade follows the same guidelines, we can be better assured of safe handling that protects both human health and the environment



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Initially developed in 1983, giving employees a "Right-To-Know"

**Requires a comprehensive hazard evaluation and communication process;** 

- 1. Ensuring hazards of all chemicals are evaluated
- 2. Creating awareness of chemical hazards along with necessary protective measure to employees

Chemical manufacturers and importers must develop and provide a container label and a Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

Employers with employees exposed to hazardous chemicals must develop a hazard communication program including:

- 1. Labels
- 2. Access to Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- 3. Training on the workplace hazardous chemicals

Creates a Visible Homogenized System that crosses borders both geographically and verbally

> The current HCS establishes requirements for minimum information that must be included on labels and SDS, it does not provide specific language to convey the information or a format in which to provide it







**United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992)** 

• Called for a globally harmonized chemical classification and labeling system – there was no unification therefore, no standardization

### GHS adopted in 2002

- **1. UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**
- 2. Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals

### Four existing national workplace safety systems serve as the basis for GHS

- **1. United States**
- 2. Canada
- 3. European Union
- 4. United Nations

OSHA has updated it's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to align with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)

Modifications will reduce costs and burdens while protecting employers and employees including:

- **1. Revised criteria for classification of chemical hazards**
- 2. Revised and standardized labeling requirements
- 3. A specified format for safety data sheets
- 4. Requirements for employee training on labels and safety data sheets





- 880,000 hazardous chemicals are currently used in the U.S. & Puerto Rico
- Hazard Communication affects 43 million American workers in over 5 million workplaces.
- GHS will prevent 500 injuries/illnesses and 43 lives per year, equaling a total of \$250 million in reduced health and safety risks.
- Costs per year will total \$201 million dollars to comply with revisions to the HCS.
- Future net benefits are estimated at \$556 million dollars per year.

**Chemical/Physical Risks (Pictograms)** 

- **1. Explosives**
- 2. Flammables
- 3. Oxidizers
- 4. Gases Under Pressure
- **5. Corrosives**

Health Risks (Pictograms)

- **1. Severe Toxics**
- 2. Acute Toxics
- 3. Health Dangers
- 4. Corrosives





## GHS Pictogram Labels



### 6 Elements to the New Label



manufacturer or supplier.

(i) Product identifier; (ii) Signal word; (iii) Hazard statement(s); (iv) Pictogram(s); (v) Precautionary statement(s); and, (vi) Name, address, and telephone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer, or other responsible party.



"The GHS hazard pictograms, signal word and hazard statements should be located together on the label. The competent authority may choose to provide a specified

(f)(1) Labels on shipped containers. The chemical manufacturer, importer, or distributor shall ensure that each container of classified hazardous chemicals leaving the workplace is labeled, tagged or marked... the following information shall be provided:

- Employers may choose to label workplace containers;
  - 1. With the same GHS label that is used to ship containers under the revised rule
  - 2. With label alternatives that meet the requirements for the standard.
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 704 Hazard Rating and the Hazardous Material Information System (HMIS) for labeling are considered acceptable for workplace containers. Information supplied on these labels must be consistent with the revised HCS, e.g., no conflicting hazard warnings or pictograms
- It will be a best practice to label your secondary container chemicals with the same GHS format as the way they came into the facility









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### **Material Safety Data Sheets** (MSDS) are now called Safety Data Sheets – (SDS)

What information should your safety data sheet include?

- Product/substance identification
- Composition/information on ingredients
- Hazards identification
- First aid measures
- Fire fighting measures
- Accidental release measures
- Handling and storage
- Exposure control and personal protection
- Physical and chemical properties
- Stability and reactivity
- Toxicological information

The safety data sheet is delivered in one of the official languages of the EU member states where the substance or preparation is marketed, unless the state or states concerned judge it differently







- Training is crucial as a study found employees did not understand 1/3 of the safety and health information with SDS's
- 40% of persons reading an SDS had difficulty understanding them overall.
- OSHA has not proposed to change training provisions under the HCS other than to initially train employees on new GHS elements.
- Minor revisions to the HCS on training:
  - 1. Labels and SDSs must be adequately explained to employees.
  - 2. Employees must understand standardized headings and sequence of SDS information.
- Training on the standardized label elements must be given.
- HCS training is meant to explain and reinforce information to the employees on areas of labels, SDSs, protective measures to be taken, and the understanding of chemical hazards in their workplace.





## **Timeline for Implementation**



### **Transition Period**

Up to the effective completion dates, chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors, and employers may comply with either 29 CFR 1910.1200 (the final standard), the current standard, or both.





to be a living document. Changes may be adopted on a two-year cycle through various rulemaking options.

## **Key Next Steps**

- Get informed on published regulatory guidelines
- Train employees on GHS (by 12/2013)
- Begin implementing GHS by specified timelines
- Chemical manufacturers/importers should begin preparing for/authoring GHS-compliance SDS's and labeling
- Stay alert for new formatted SDS's, capture and file
- Update your chemical inventory
- Talk to chemical suppliers about transition plans
- Confirm your secondary container labeling system is GHScompliant





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## **Online Resources to Check-Out**

- www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html
- http://www.accuform.com/store/page.cfm?page=2013 hazcom
- <u>http://www.accuform.com/files/marketing/ghs/ghs\_finalrule.pdf</u>
- <u>http://blog.accuform.com/blog/notable-safety-regulations/ghs-is-finally-here</u>
- <u>http://blog.accuform.com/blog/notable-safety-</u> regulations/safety-data-sheets-and-the-shift-to-uniformity-in-<u>hcs-2012</u>

