



Globally Harmonized System

Modification of the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to conform with the United Nations' (UN) Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)





Globally Harmonized System

The **Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals** or **GHS** is an internationally agreed upon system, created by the United Nations.

OSHA's adoption of the GHS will not change the framework and scope of the current OSHA Hazcom Standard, but will help ensure improved quality and more consistency of hazard information in the workplace.



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GHS is a **Globally Harmonized System**, that is a *global* approach to the classification of hazardous chemicals and the communication of hazards to workers via labels and safety data sheets that will affect the current OSHA Hazcom Standard (HCS).

The two key words in the name of this new system are globally and harmonized. Globally meaning global or worldwide, and Harmonized simply meaning coordinated. Hence, Globally Harmonized is referring to a worldwide coordinated system.



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Currently, more than 60 countries are active participants in the development and implementation of the GHS system.

A few of those countries currently active with GHS are Canada, Japan, Mexico, European Union, Australia, Argentina, South Africa, Indonesia, Thailand, and Cambodia.

In the US alone the GHS is estimated to affect over 5 million companies and over 40 million workers.

In the US the GHS is also estimated to prevent 43 workplace fatalities and 585 workplace injuries per year.



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Changes with GHS

- Better definition for identification of hazards
- Use of symbols for Hazard Classifications
- New “standardized” label requirements
- MSDS’s will be renamed as Safety Data Sheets (SDS’s)
- SDS’s will have a required format of 16 defined sections



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Changes with GHS

The Hazard Classification Symbols;





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GHS Label Example

Product Identifier

Hazard Symbol

Signal Word

Hazard Statements

Precautionary Statements

Manufacturer Contact Information

Product J
(abc chemical)

Danger
Fatal if swallowed
Causes skin irritation

Precautions:
Wear protective gloves.
Take off contaminated clothing and wash before reuse.
Wash hands thoroughly after handling.
Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.
Store locked up.
Dispose of contents/containers in accordance with local regulations.

IF ON SKIN: Rinse skin with water/shower.
IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water.
IF SWALLOWED: Immediately call a Poison Center or doctor/physician. Do not induce vomiting.

ABC Chemical Co., 123 Anywhere St., (123) 456-7890
See the SDS for more information



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Changes with GHS

SDS's will contain 16 defined sections in a designated sequence.

1. Identification
2. Hazard Identification
3. Composition
4. First-Aid Measures
5. Fire Fighting Measures
6. Accidental Release Measures
7. Handling & Storage
8. Exposure Controls/PPE
9. Physical/Chemical Properties
10. Stability/Reactivity
11. Toxicological Information
12. Ecological Information
13. Disposal Considerations
14. Transportation Information
15. Regulatory Information
16. Other Information



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Implementation Timing

Dec. 1, 2013 – Employers must train workers on the new label elements and Safety Data Sheet's (formally known as MSDS's).

June 1, 2015 – Chemical manufacturers, importers, and employers must comply with GHS based changes to the OSHA Hazcom standard.

June 1, 2016 – Employers must update alternative workplace labeling and Hazcom programs.



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Gulf Coast Safety Council

- GCSC has developed a training module to be used for training employees on the fundamentals of GHS.
- The GHS Training module is currently available (October 2012).
- The GHS training module will be available through the GCSC website.
- GCSC offers group training on site (contact GCSC for details).