

Meeting the Challenges of a Global GHS.

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is a set of guidelines set by the United Nations with the intent of establishing an international standard for identifying, classifying, and labelling chemicals. Major changes to the current system include a new format of Material Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and the adoption of some key label elements.

The GHS was developed by the United Nations, as a way to bring into agreement the chemical regulations and standards of different countries. The first edition of GHS SDS and GHS labelling was adopted in 2002 and published in 2003, and has been revised many times since then.

Jurisdictions can pick and choose those pieces of the GHS they wish to incorporate into their own regulations (this is called the building block approach). Each adopting country is solely responsible for its enforcement within its jurisdiction. To date, over 65 countries have adopted GHS or are in the process of adopting GHS.

The most noticeable changes brought by GHS for most organizations will be changes to safety labels, safety data sheets, and chemical classification. The GHS standardises the content and formatting of SDSs into 16 sections with a strict ordering. Labels also look quite different, with 6 standardised elements that include specific language depending upon chemical classification.

Some useful links

The GHS, in its entirety (including classification criteria and label and MSDS requirements), can be downloaded at:

http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev05/05files_e.html

GHS Implementation information from around the world through international legal instruments, recommendations, codes and guidelines can be found at

http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/implementation_e.html

The following are links to known classification lists:

- **Annex VI of CLP (Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008)**

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/documents/classification/index_en.htm

- **CHRIP (Chemical Risk Information Platform) - GHS Classification Results by MHLW and MOE (Japan)**

<http://www.safe.nite.go.jp/english/db.html>

- **CCID (Chemical Classification and Information Database) - New Zealand GHS classification database**

<http://www.epa.govt.nz/search-databases/Pages/HSNO-CCID.aspx>

- **KOREA GHS classification list by TCCA - The amended list of GHS classification and labelling for Toxic Chemicals (4th)**

http://ncis.nier.go.kr/ghs/board/list_1_view.jsp?board_id=1&seq=8

Information sources for GHS classification you may not know about:

- **C&L Inventory (ECHA)**

<http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/information-on-chemicals/cl-inventory-database>

- **REACH Registration Dossiers (ECHA)**

<http://echa.europa.eu/regulations/reach/substance-registration/the-registration-dossier>

- **ECETOC Targeted Risk Assessment**

<http://www.ecetoc.org/tra>

- **OECD QSAR Toolbox**

<http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/theoecdqsartoolbox.htm>

- **USEPA EPI-SUITE**

<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/exposure/pubs/episuite.htm>

- **Stoffenmanager**

<https://stoffenmanager.nl/>

- **EMKG Exposure assessment tool**

<http://www.reach-clp-biozid-helpdesk.de/en/Exposure/Exposure.html>