

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GHS

GLOBALY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELING OF CHEMICALS

What is it?

GHS is a framework for classifying and labeling hazardous chemicals.

Why do we need it?

The purpose of GHS is to provide hazard information to users of chemicals in a standardized manner that is easy to comprehend.

How will GHS affect you and your customers?

The biggest change in workplaces where chemicals are used, but not produced, is to integrate GHS into the workplace hazard communication program. This includes ensuring that both employers and employees understand the pictograms and other information provided on the SDS and labels.

~~Material~~ Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are now

Safety Data Sheets (SDS):

GHS standardizes the content and formatting of SDS into 16 sections with a strict ordering.

Labels:

Labels are required to have 6 standardized elements that include specific language depending upon chemical classification.

Pictograms you need to know:



Health Hazards
Acute toxicity
Target organ toxicity



Corrosion
Corrosive to skin
Corrosive to metals



Flame
Flammable liquids



Exclamation Mark
Acute toxicity
Target organ toxicity
Skin/eye irritant
Skin sensitizer

Pictograms

Pictograms are symbols that appear on the label. They communicate specific information about the hazards of a product at a single glance.



IMPORTANT DATES

June 1, 2015

All manufacturers and distributors must be fully in compliance with GHS standards on labels and safety data sheets.

June 1, 2016

GHS will be fully implemented in the U.S., and Employee Right to Know programs must be updated to include GHS standards.