

Hazard Communication Standard Updates

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued its final revisions to the Hazard Communication Standard on March 20, 2012, aligning it with the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. The alignment with GHS will mean changes for U.S. companies that produce, transport or handle chemicals, including different language in safety data sheets (previously called Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)) and safety labels. The rule also will create a new category for “hazards not otherwise classified,” which includes combustible dust.

The final rule will be phased in over a period of time, and facilities will have until June 2016 to fully comply with the rule. Employers will have to update their safety data sheets (SDS) when new ones become available, provide training on the new label elements and update their hazard communication programs if new hazards are identified.

Below is a list of the deadlines for full implementation of the revised Hazard Communication Standard:

- Dec. 1, 2013–Employers must have finished training employees on new label elements and SDS format.
- June 1, 2015–Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers must comply with all modified provisions of the final rule. Distributors may continue to ship products labeled under the old system until Dec. 1, 2015.
- June 1, 2016–Employers must update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication programs as necessary and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards.

During the transition period, the final, current or both standards may be followed.

Major changes to the Hazard Communication Standard:

- **Hazard classification:** Chemical manufacturers and importers are required to determine the hazards of the chemicals they produce or import. Hazard classification under the new, updated standard provides specific criteria to address health and physical hazards as well as classification of chemical mixtures.
- **Labels:** Chemical manufacturers and importers must provide a label that includes a signal word, pictogram, hazard statement, and precautionary statement for each hazard class and category.

SAMPLE LABEL	
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">PRODUCT IDENTIFIER</p> <p>CODE _____</p> <p>Product Name _____</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION</p> <p>Company Name _____</p> <p>Street Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____</p> <p>Postal Code _____ Country _____</p> <p>Emergency Phone Number _____</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS</p> <p>Keep container tightly closed. Store in cool, well ventilated place that is locked. Keep away from heat/sparks/open flame. No smoking. Only use non-sparking tools. Use explosion-proof electrical equipment. Take precautionary measure against static discharge. Ground and bond container and receiving equipment. Do not breathe vapors. Wear Protective gloves. Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product. Wash hands thoroughly after handling. Dispose of in accordance with local, regional, national, international regulations as specified.</p> <p>In Case of Fire: use dry chemical (BC) or Carbon dioxide (CO₂) fire extinguisher to extinguish.</p> <p>First Aid If exposed call Poison Center. If on skin (on hair): Take off immediately any contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">HAZARD PICTOGRAMS</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">SIGNAL WORD Danger</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">HAZARD STATEMENT Highly flammable liquid and vapor. May cause liver and kidney damage.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</p> <p>Directions for use _____ _____ _____</p> <p>Fill weight: _____ Lot Number _____</p> <p>Gross weight: _____ Fill Date: _____</p> <p>Expiration Date: _____</p>

As of June 1, 2015, the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) will require pictograms on labels to alert users of the chemical hazards to which they may be exposed. Each pictogram consists of a symbol on a white background framed within a red border and represents a distinct hazard(s). The pictogram on the label is determined by the chemical hazard classification.

<p align="center">Health Hazard</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Carcinogen ■ Mutagenicity ■ Reproductive Toxicity ■ Respiratory Sensitizer ■ Target Organ Toxicity ■ Aspiration Toxicity 	<p align="center">Flame</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Flammables ■ Pyrophorics ■ Self-Heating ■ Emits Flammable Gas ■ Self-Reactives ■ Organic Peroxides 	<p align="center">Exclamation Mark</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Irritant (skin and eye) ■ Skin Sensitizer ■ Acute Toxicity ■ Narcotic Effects ■ Respiratory Tract Irritant ■ Hazardous to Ozone Layer (Non-Mandatory)
<p align="center">Gas Cylinder</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gases Under Pressure 	<p align="center">Corrosion</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Skin Corrosion/Burns ■ Eye Damage ■ Corrosive to Metals 	<p align="center">Exploding Bomb</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Explosives ■ Self-Reactives ■ Organic Peroxides
<p align="center">Flame Over Circle</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Oxidizers 	<p align="center">Environment (Non-Mandatory)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aquatic Toxicity 	<p align="center">Skull and Crossbones</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Acute Toxicity (fatal or toxic)

- **Safety Data Sheets:** Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) renamed to just Safety Data Sheets or SDS. The new SDS is required to be in a uniform format, and include the section numbers, the headings, and associated information under the headings below:

- Section 1. Identification includes product identifier; manufacturer or distributor name, address, phone number; emergency phone number; recommended use; restrictions on use.
- Section 2. Hazard(s) identification includes all hazards regarding the chemical; required label elements.
- Section 3. Composition/information on ingredients includes information on chemical ingredients; trade secret claims.
- Section 4. First-aid measures includes important symptoms/ effects, acute, delayed; required treatment.
- Section 5. Fire-fighting measures lists suitable extinguishing techniques, equipment; chemical hazards from fire.
- Section 6. Accidental release measures lists emergency procedures; protective equipment; proper methods of containment and cleanup.
- Section 7. Handling and storage lists precautions for safe handling and storage, including incompatibilities.
- Section 8. Exposure controls/personal protection lists OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs); Threshold Limit Values (TLVs); appropriate engineering controls; personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Section 9. Physical and chemical properties lists the chemical's characteristics.

- Section 10. Stability and reactivity lists chemical stability and possibility of hazardous reactions.
- Section 11. Toxicological information includes routes of exposure; related symptoms, acute and chronic effects; numerical measures of toxicity.
- Section 12. Ecological information
- Section 13. Disposal considerations
- Section 14. Transport information
- Section 15. Regulatory information
- Section 16. Other information, includes the date of preparation or last revision

- **Information and training:** To facilitate understanding of the new system, the new standard requires that workers be trained by December 1, 2013 on the new label elements and safety data sheet format, in addition to the current training requirements.

For more information, please go to OSHA's website: <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>