

SafetyAlert

We're Serious About Safety

Globally Harmonized System

The Globally Harmonized System or (GHS) is an international approach to hazard communication, providing agreed criteria for classification of chemical hazards, and a standardized approach to label elements and safety data sheets. The GHS was negotiated in a multi-year process by hazard communication experts from many different countries, international organizations, and stakeholder groups. It is based on major existing systems around the world, including OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard and the chemical classification and labeling systems of other US agencies.

The result of this negotiation process is the United Nations' document entitled "Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals". Harmonized classification criteria for health, physical, and environmental hazards of chemicals is defined by the Hazard Classification. The criteria also includes standardized label elements that are assigned to these hazard classes and categories, and provides the appropriate signal words, pictograms, and hazard and precautionary statements to convey the hazards to users. A standardized order of information for safety data sheets is also provided.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS)


GHS requires that chemical manufacturers, distributors, or importers provide Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for each hazardous chemical to downstream users to communicate information on these hazards. The information contained in the SDS is largely the same as the MSDS, except now the SDS's are required to be presented in a consistent user-friendly, 16-section format. The SDS includes information such as the properties of each chemical; the physical, health, and environmental health hazards; protective measures; and safety precautions for handling, storing, and transporting the chemical. The information contained in the SDS must be in English (although it may be in other languages as well).

Hazard Classification

The definitions of hazard have been changed to provide specific criteria for classification of health and physical hazards, as well as classification of mixtures. These specific criteria will help to ensure that evaluations of hazardous effects are consistent across manufacturers, and that labels and safety data sheets are more accurate as a result.

Primary Container Labels

Chemical manufacturers and importers will be required to provide a label that includes a harmonized signal word, pictogram, and hazard statement for each hazard class and category. Precautionary statements must also be provided.

DANGER		Carbon Monoxide
	H220: Extremely flammable gas. H331: Toxic if inhaled. - H360D: May damage the unborn child. - H372: Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure.	
	Keep container tightly closed. Avoid breathing vapors. If inhaled: Remove victim to fresh air and keep at rest in a position comfortable for breathing. Call a Poison Center or doctor. Store in a well-ventilated place.	
30.0 L	3630-06-D 006-001-02-2 211-128-3 #####	Company ABC 1234 Long Road New York, NY 555-800-8585

For more information, visit the OSHA website to access many OSHA resources on HazCom and the new GHS standard:
<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/>



Beacon Mutual offers a variety of training opportunities for employees, supervisors and managers. Please check our seminar schedule for more information.
www.beaconmutual.com

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