



OSHA Updates Require New Labels for Hazardous Chemicals

Work with your customers NOW to modify labels and meet regulation deadlines



4 Things You Need to Know about GHS

1. OSHA updated hazardous label requirements to a new Globally Harmonized System (GHS). All companies who produce, transport, or warehouse hazardous or dangerous chemicals must adopt the GHS labels. This includes re-labeling a wide range of industrial and consumer products that can pose a hazard.
2. GHS labels require specific elements. These include pictograms, a signal word, hazard and precautionary statements, product identifier and supplier identification.
3. Companies must begin converting now! By December 1, 2013, employers must train employees on the new label elements. By June 1, 2015, manufacturers must fully comply with the new labeling requirements.
4. OSHA offers comprehensive information on the OSHA GHS web site. (<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html>)



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Important information regarding new OSHA regulations and GHS



The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has recently updated the Hazard Communication Standard. This change includes adopting the Globally Harmonized System to improve the communication about chemical hazards for the safety and health of workers. As a result, identifying labels will have to be modified to convey health, physical and environmental hazards.

Labels will now have to provide the identity of the chemical and appropriate hazard warnings. The Hazard Communication Standard states what information has to be identified for each hazard class and category. Labels will require the following:

Product Identifier: Chemical name, product name or other unique identifier

Pictogram: Each pictogram consists of a black symbol on a white background, within a red border that conveys specific information about the hazards of a chemical. There are nine pictograms under the GHS. However, only eight pictograms are required under the HCS.

Signal words: A single word used to indicate the level of severity of hazard and alert the reader to a potential hazard on the label. The signal words used are "danger" and "warning." "Danger" is used for the more severe hazards, while "warning" is used for less severe hazards.

Hazard Statement: A statement assigned to a hazard class and category that describes the nature and degree of hazard.

Precautionary Statement: A phrase that describes recommended measures to be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a hazardous chemical, or improper storage or handling of a hazardous chemical.

Supplier Identification: Name, address and phone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer or other responsible party.