



HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)

Never heard of GHS?

Then you and/or your employees may be breaking the law!

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) has been in effect since 1983 to protect workers from injuries and illness caused by exposure to chemicals.

GHS aligns our national HCS with an international system.

In addition to current HCS training requirements, employers should have already trained employees to understand the new chemical labels and the information contained in Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Table 1: Required Phase-in Dates

Effective Completion Date	Requirement(s)	Who
December 1, 2013	Train employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet (SDS) format.	Employers
June 1, 2015 December 1, 2015	Compliance with all modified provisions of this final rule, except: The Distributor shall not ship containers labeled by the chemical manufacturer or importer unless it is a GHS label	Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers
June 1, 2016	Update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication program as necessary, and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards.	Employers
Transition Period to the effective completion dates noted above	May comply with either 29 CFR 1910.1200 (the final standard), or the current standard, or both	Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors, and employers

Source: <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/effectivedates.html>

As of June 1, 2015, all labels will be required to have pictograms, a signal word, hazard and precautionary statements, the product identifier (name of the hazardous material), and supplier identification. Pictograms will graphically convey hazardous characteristics such as flammability, health hazard, and immediate health problems. The signal word and hazard statement will use words to describe the potential hazards. The precautionary statement will describe how to avoid the specified hazards. Supplier information will include the name and address of the chemical manufacturer, importer, or other responsible party. Labels will also include an emergency phone number.

Figure 1: Pictograms

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

Source: https://www.osha.gov/Publications/HazComm_QuickCard_Pictogram.html

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SDSs will replace the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) that many workers are already familiar with. According to OSHA, the HCS requires chemical manufacturers, distributors, or importers to provide these documents to communicate the hazards of hazardous chemical products. As of June 1, 2015, the HCS will require new SDSs to be in a uniform format and include the following 16 sections in the standardized order presented below:

- Section 1 – Identification
- Section 2 – Hazard(s) Identification
- Section 3 – Composition/Information on Ingredients
- Section 4 – First-aid Measures
- Section 5 – Fire-fighting Measures
- Section 6 – Accidental Release Measures
- Section 7 – Handling and Storage
- Section 8 – Exposure Controls/Personal Protection
- Section 9 – Physical and Chemical Properties
- Section 10 – Stability and Reactivity
- Section 11 - Toxicological Information
- Section 12 – Ecological Information
- Section 13 – Disposal Considerations
- Section 14 – Transport Information
- Section 15 – Regulatory Information
- Section 16 – Other information

For additional information about the requirements of GHS and HCS, please contact your company's Health and Safety Officer, or visit these helpful links:

United States Department of Labor, Hazard Communication Web Page:

<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Official Publication of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals:

http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev00/00files_e.html