

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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Implementation of the GHS:

Reports on status of implementation

Update on GHS implementation for the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America

Introduction

1. On March 26, 2012, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the United States of America published the final rule to align its Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). This final rule became effective on May 25th, 2012, and will be fully implemented by June 1, 2016.
2. OSHA has modified only the provisions of the HCS that must be changed to align with the GHS while maintaining or enhancing the level of protection:
 - (a) The basic framework of the HCS remains the same
 - (i) Chemical manufacturers and importers are responsible for providing information about the identities and hazards of chemicals they produce or import
 - (ii) All employers with hazardous chemicals in their workplaces are still required to have a hazard communication program, and provide information to employees about their hazards and associated protective measures
 - (b) The regulatory text and guidance information regarding the revised HCS is available at: <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>.

Implementation period

3. OSHA is providing three years (June 1, 2015) for manufacturers and importers to classify and update the labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for substances and mixtures.
4. OSHA recognizes that US workers may begin to see GHS compliant labels prior to June 1, 2015; therefore OSHA is requiring employers to train employees on the new label elements and SDS format by December 1, 2013.
5. All other provisions will be fully in enforced by June 1, 2015, except:

- (a) Distributors who are passing on manufacturer labels to customers must ensure all labels are updated by December 1, 2015 (these distributors have an extra six months) **IF** distributors are creating their **OWN** labels, they **MUST** comply with the June 1, 2015 date for labels.
- (b) Employers will also be given an additional year (by June 1, 2016) to update their hazard communication programs or any other workplace signs, if applicable.
- (c) OSHA selected June 1, 2015 as the effective date for labels because it coincides with the EU date for classifying mixtures.
- (d) Below is a chart detailing the effective dates for when the provisions of the revised HCS will be effective in the United States:

<i>Effective Completion Date</i>	<i>Requirement(s)</i>	<i>Who</i>
December 1, 2013	Train employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet (SDS) format.	Employers
June 1, 2015	Compliance with all modified provisions of this final rule, except:	Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers
December 1, 2015	The Distributor shall not ship containers labelled by the chemical manufacturer or importer unless it is a GHS label	
June 1, 2016	Update alternative workplace labelling 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