

# GHS

## A NEW APPROACH TO WORKPLACE HAZARD COMMUNICATION



### BIG CHANGES ARE COMING TO A WORKPLACE NEAR YOU.

OSHA's 2012 Hazard Communication Standard (HCS 2012) aligned U.S. workplace hazard communication regulations in the U.S. Title 29 CFR 1910.1200 with most major provisions of the UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS).

Deadlines for compliance began in December 2013 and continue today.

### WHAT IS GHS?

The UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS) is a classification and labeling system developed to provide an internationally harmonized standard model regulation for the classification and labeling of chemicals. Harmonized Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are included in the system.

### WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

It means chemicals in shipped containers that fall under the scope and application of and that require classification under and/or meet the hazard provisions of the revised HCS require a compliant warning label and SDS.

OSHA HCS 2012 BY THE NUMBERS\*

Workplaces affected:

5+ million

Fatalities prevented per year:

43 (EST)

Injuries prevented per year:

585 (EST)



Cost reduction/productivity improvement per year:

\$754,000,000 (EST)

\*Source: <https://www.osha.gov/lp-ops/facts-hcs-ghs.html>

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

In general terms, responsibility falls into two categories:

#### CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS

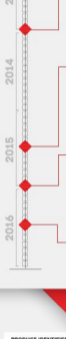
Companies that manufacture or distribute chemicals (or import them for sale in the U.S.) must ensure:

- Chemicals are classified according to the new guidelines
- HCS-compliant GHS-based labels are applied to shipped containers
- Updated SDS forms accompany the chemicals

#### GENERAL INDUSTRY

Businesses that use chemicals in the workplace must:

- Train employees on the new classification system
- Ensure all chemical labels and SDSs are HCS-compliant



### WHEN DOES THIS HAPPEN?



### WHAT MAKES A LABEL HCS-COMPLIANT?

These are the major elements of an HCS-compliant label:



**PRODUCT IDENTIFIER**  
The name or number used for a hazardous chemical on a label or in the SDS. It provides a unique means by which the user can identify the chemical. The product identifier used shall permit cross-references to be made among the list of hazardous chemicals required in the written hazard communication program, the label and the SDS.  
GHS 1.4.1.3.1.2.6 GHS 1.9.1.1.3.1.2.6

**SIGNAL WORD**  
A word used to indicate the relative level of severity of a hazard and alert the reader to a potential hazard on the label. The signal words used in this section are "danger" and "warning." "Danger" is used for more severe hazards, while "warning" is used for less severe.  
GHS 1.4.1.3.1.2.6 GHS 1.9.1.1.3.1.2.6

**HAZARD STATEMENT**  
A statement assigned to a hazard class and category that describes the nature of the hazard(s) of a chemical, including, where appropriate, the degree of hazard.  
**Example:** Fatal if inhaled.  
GHS 1.4.1.3.1.2.6 GHS 1.9.1.1.3.1.2.6

**PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENT**  
There are four types of precautionary statements presented, "prevention," "response," "storage," and "disposal."  
**Example:** Do not eat, drink, or smoke when using this product.  
GHS 1.4.1.3.1.2.6 GHS 1.9.1.1.3.1.2.6

**PICTOGRAMS**  
A composition that may include a symbol plus other graphic elements, such as a border, background pattern, or color, that is intended to convey specific information about the hazards of a chemical. Eight pictograms are designated under HCS for application to a hazard category.  
GHS 1.4.1.3.1.2.6 GHS 1.9.1.1.3.1.2.6

**SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION**  
The name, address, and telephone number of the manufacturer, importer or other responsible party.  
GHS 1.4.1.3.1.2.6 GHS 1.9.1.1.3.1.2.6

**FLAME**  
Flammable, Self-Reactives, Pyrophorics, Self-Heating, Finely Divisible Gas, Organic Peroxides

**FLAME OVER CIRCLE**  
Oxidizers

**SKULL AND CROSSBONES**  
Acute Toxicity

**GAS CYLINDER**  
Gases Under Pressure

**CORROSION**  
Corrosives

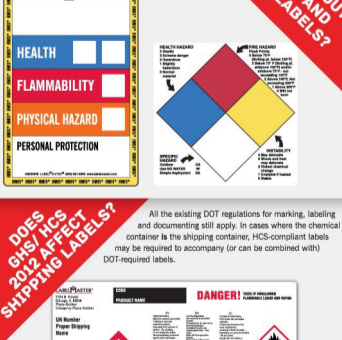
**EXPLODING BOMB**  
Explosives, Self-Reactives, Organic Peroxides

**EXCLAMATION MARK**  
Irritant, Dermal Sensitizer, Acute Toxicity (Dermal), Narcotic (Ethers), Respiratory Tract Irritant

**HEALTH HAZARD**  
Carcinogen, Respiratory Sensitizer, Reproductive Toxicity, Target Organ Toxicity, Mutagenicity, Aspiration Toxicity

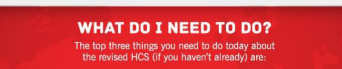
### WHAT DOES THE NEW SDS FORMAT LOOK LIKE?

The chemical safety information is organized into 16 sections, providing consistency and harmonization for easy access.



You can continue to use HMIS and NFPA labels for workplace containers only, provided the information does not conflict with HCS 2012.

### WHAT ABOUT HMIS AND NFPA LABELS?



All the existing DOT regulations for marking, labeling and documenting still apply. In cases where the chemical container is the shipping container, HCS-compliant labels may be required in addition to (or combined with) DOT-required labels.

### DOES GHS/HCS 2012 AFFECT SHIPPING LABELS?



### WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

The top three things you need to do today about the revised HCS (if you haven't already) are:

- 1. READ THE REGULATION.** It is available at no charge at <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs-final-rule.html>
- 2. TRAIN YOUR EMPLOYEES** on HCS 2012 compliance, even if you haven't implemented the labels and SDS yet. Note—this deadline has already passed.
- 3. If you are a general industry employer and not a manufacturer/distributor, TALK TO YOUR CHEMICAL VENDORS** about when they will be converting their labels and MSDS to reflect the revised standard.

And remember: Labelmaster is ready to help with the products, services and expertise to make HCS 2012 compliance easy!