



INFORMATION

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has initiated a modification to the Hazard Communication Standard to align the United States better with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). The revised standard will allow workers to locate clear and concise information on handling and use of hazardous chemicals. According to the United States Department of Labor website, "the Hazard Communication Standard of 1983 gave the workers 'the right to know,' but the new Globally Harmonized System gives workers the 'right to understand.'"

Major changes to the Hazard Communication Standard are:

- Safety data sheets will now have a specific 16 section format
- Employers are required to train employees on the new standards (labels and safety data sheets)
- Labels will be required to have a harmonized signal word, pictogram and hazard statement for each hazard class and category
- The hazard classification will be based on specific criteria classifying the health and physical hazards of the chemical

Effective Dates:

- Employees must be trained on the new label and safety data sheet formats by employers no later than 1 December 2013.
- Companies must be in compliance with all the new rules by 1 June 2015. Distributors have until 1 December 2015 to ensure all containers in stock have the updated labels and safety data sheets before shipping product.

For additional information, visit the United States Department of Labor website at www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index2.html.