GHS: Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals

What is GHS?

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) is an internationally agreed-upon system created by the United Nations. It is designed to replace the various classification and labeling standards used in different countries with a consistent labeling system on a global level. OSHA has updated its Hazard Communication Standard to align with this Globally Harmonized System.

What does this mean for Employers?

Much of OSHA's Hazardous Communication Standard has been changed in this transition and that means manufacturers and employers will have to update their hazard communication program accordingly. The new requirements include:



Safety Data Sheets

New sections and information are required for the Safety Data Sheets compared to the old MSDS style sheets.



Chemical Labeling

Labeling changes from MSDS to GHS include revised hazard classification and new pictograms.



Employee Training

All employees must be trained on the new label requirements and SDS formats.

When do these requirements take effect?

The GHS requirements are transitioned into effect in 4 phases over a 2 1/2 year period starting in December 2013.



December 1, 2013

Employers to train employees on the new label elements and SDS format.



Comply with all modified provisions of this final rule (exception: Distributors may ship products labeled by manufacturers under the old system).

December 1, 2015

Distributors must ship products with GHS complaint labeling.

June 1, 2016

Employers to update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication program as necessary, and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards.

GHS Safety Solutions

Hazard communication solutions that meet the new GHS requirements.



GHS Safety Services

Panduit offers a full suite of services to provide professional assistance with establishing a Hazard Communication program that complies with the new GHS requirements. Our service offering includes:

- Program development Panduit can create a hazard communication program individually tailored to your facility that will meet the new GHS standard
- Training Panduit offers numerous training options including personalized GHS training that is specifically designed for your facility. Training can be conducted on-site or remotely
- Hazardous Exposure Testing We can perform air quality sampling to determine employee exposure for hazardous chemicals



GHS Labeling Solutions

We offer several easy to use tools for printing OSHA compliant GHS labels. These tools include the Safety Ease™ GHS Labeling Software, Easy-Mark™ Labeling Software, and the Thermal Transfer Desktop Printer (TDP4ME). Panduit offers thermal transfer labels, laser/inkjet labels, individual pictograms, pre-printed tags and labels, and custom printed GHS labels for all your application needs.



GHS Training Aids

Panduit offers posters and wallet sized cards that detail all nine of the GHS pictograms and the layout and elements of the GHS label. These are great training tools to use as the GHS standard is implemented in your facility.



GHS Stations

The Right to Know backboard and wire rack store Safety Data Sheet (SDS) binders in a highly visible fashion, making it easy for all employees to access safety data sheets.



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