

The Gowrie Safety Report

Safety & Loss Prevention Insights



Hazardous Materials: New Requirements for Labels and Formats

A new OSHA standard is being put in place to bring the United States into alignment with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (**GHS**). The goal is to further improve safety and health protections for America's workers. Building on the success of OSHA's current Hazard Communication Standard, the GHS is expected to help prevent injuries and illnesses, save lives and improve trade conditions for chemical manufacturers. The Hazard Communication Standard of 1983 gave the workers the 'Right to Know,' **the new Globally Harmonized System gives workers the 'right to understand.'** This new modified standard provides a single set of criteria for classifying chemicals according to their health and physical hazards, and specifies hazard communication elements for labeling and safety data sheets.

Gowrie Group recommends that you take the time now to review the **OSHA Hazard Communication Standard Final Rule [Fact Sheet](#)**, which provides additional detail on the new standards and details on what you need to do and when. The first compliance deadline is set for 12/1/2013.

- **Chemical Users:** Continue to update safety data sheets when new ones become available, provide training on the new label elements and update hazard communication programs if new hazards are identified.
- **Chemical Producers:** Review hazard information for all chemicals produced or imported, classify chemicals according to the new classification criteria, and update labels and safety data sheets.

Effective Completion Date	Requirements	Who
December 1, 2013	Train employees on the new label elements and SDS format.	Employers
June 1, 2015 December 1, 2015	Comply with all modified provisions of this final rule, except: Distributors may ship products labeled by manufacturers under the old system until December 1, 2015.	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



Gowrie's Safety & Loss Prevention insights are created by Kellie Crete. Kellie manages Gowrie Group's Safety & Loss Prevention practice area and has more than 25 years of experience in safety and loss control, and specializes in advising the marine industry and other niche segments of the commercial marketplace. Kellie is an OSHA authorized instructor. For more information, kelliec@gowrie.com, p: 860.399.2881, c: 508.509.3788, www.gowrie.com/safety

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Media questions: Whitney Peterson, VP of Marketing, whitneyp@gowrie.com, 860.399.2812.