THE ADOPTION OF GHS

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is a standard system for labeling and classifying the hazards in chemicals and for conveying that information in health/data sheets for common global use. Prior to the GHS, every country had a different system for communicating information on the hazards of chemicals. GHS intends to provide standardized classification criteria and hazard communication elements for international regulatory agencies.

5 AREAS AFFECTED BY GHS

1. 16-Section SDS
2. Classification Scheme
3. Lists
4. Communication/Dissemination
5. Training

GLOBAL ADOPTION: WHAT HAPPENED?

Although the building block approach supports flexibility and provides an avenue for competent authorities to integrate GHS within existing systems, internationally, various competent authorities adopted different revisions of GHS and/or the hazard classes, hazard categories and criteria included in the system.

In the U.S., adopted Revision 3 of GHS. Under the building block approach, OSHA adopted most GHS hazard standards, with the exception of Classification Criteria included in GHS. The adoption of Classification Criteria is based on the UN GHS Purple Book. A Transition period was规定的和and ended in October 2018. The United States’ transition period for initial adoption ended; OSHA has signaled the start of the rule revision of the UN GHS Purple Book. A 3-year transition period is currently underway and is set to end in October 2018.

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What are the end goals of GHS?

The basic goal of the GHS is to standardize the classification rules for hazards, as well as safety data sheets (SDS) and chemical labels. The aim is to create a system that can be utilized or modeled by countries using a building-block approach, or “a la carte” style.

The flexible global adoption of GHS has fractured the forecasted harmonization, creating unexpected outcomes. Discrepancy can be found in hazard statements, classification criteria and pictograms.

Your organization can implement best practices to navigate the Challenges of the GHS transition and maintain compliance.

HOW CAN COMPANIES MITIGATE THE CHALLENGES OF GHS?

1. Conduct annual check-ups.
2. Perform regular physical inventories.
3. Contact manufacturers and suppliers to request SDSs.
4. Review GHS goals with software partners and chemical management system.
5. Submit every received SDS to your SDS management partner.

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