



CHEMICALS COMPLIANCE WORLDWIDE

Meeting the challenges of implementing and keeping up-to-date with the GHS

GHS – GLOBALLY HARMONISED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

The GHS, adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2001, aims to provide identical evaluation criteria for chemical substances and mixtures worldwide. Therefore, GHS sets new standards for classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals.

The GHS regulations pose a complex challenge for companies producing or marketing chemical substances and mixtures, as well as the users of such chemicals. Meeting national and international legal requirements and optimising documentation involve a major effort, especially as the system continuously develops while striving for harmonisation.

We assist you with all aspects – from development of a GHS company strategy to classification and labelling of substances and mixtures, including notification to authorities and elaboration of safety data sheets. We also offer GHS regulatory data for Safety Data Sheets (SDS) software and chemicals management systems.

ONE SYSTEM — ONE CLASSIFICATION?

GHS is comprised of several building blocks. It is up to the individual countries or regions to decide which of the building blocks they want to use. As a result – and despite being called a globally harmonised system – differences in classification and labelling will continue to exist.



We provide in-depth knowledge of global chemicals regulations as well as national requirements worldwide. Photo: iStock © andeva

CLIENT

Manufacturers, distributors and users of chemical substances and mixtures

CHALLENGE

Need for companies supporting a global market to comply with applicable national legislation while seeking to optimise the production of documentation required on a global scale – today and in the future

SOLUTION

Work with a trustworthy partner at the forefront of regulatory developments that can:

- Develop a complete GHS strategy – one of our key competences
- Provide classification and labelling of substances and mixtures as well as compilation of Safety Data Sheets for various markets according to local requirements
- Provide training to your staff on all aspects of GHS

VALUE

- Access to expert advice at every step – from practical details to broader implications
- Provides thorough knowledge to enable you to make the right and sustainable decisions
- Enables you to stay up-to-date using our free web tool
- Saves you time by outsourcing an essential but time-consuming task
- Provides a direct link to local authorities

IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF GHS CLASSIFICATION

Classifications under GHS are made within three main areas, each containing a number of hazard classes: health, physical and environmental hazards.

SIGNAL WORDS

There are two signal words – DANGER and WARNING – describing the degree of danger. Only one of these is used on the hazard label. In a few cases, no signal word is assigned.

Some countries may have extra requirements for the label format, such as local pictograms, specific phrases and so forth.

HAZARD PICTOGRAMS



HAZARD AND PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

The hazards of a chemical are described in hazard statements (H statements; for example, H221 – Flammable gas, H300 – Fatal if swallowed).

How to safely handle chemicals and what to do in case of accidents are described in the precautionary statements (P statements; for example, P402 – Store in a dry place, P330 – Rinse mouth).

NATIONAL INVENTORIES COMPLICATE THE SITUATION

Several countries already operate with nationally-harmonised classification and labelling of certain substances. In some countries, these inventories are mandatory when marketing a product. This can lead to differences in the classification and labelling of the same substance in different parts of the world and thereby also have an impact on the classification and labelling of mixtures.

NOTIFICATION AND PRODUCT REGISTRATION

Some countries go beyond regulating classification and labelling; they also require a notification of substance classification and a product registration of substances and mixtures. The rules differ in each country – just as the responsible authorities to which to notify or register with. As a global company, you will need to stay in touch with national authorities.

Contact: ghs-info@dhigroup.com

For more information, visit: www.tox.dhigroup.com

FREE WEB TOOL

We have developed a free web tool – the easiest way to stay up-to-date with the worldwide implementation status of GHS as well as the latest regulatory news. In addition, you will find hazard and precautionary statements in all European Union (EU) languages as well as in several non-EU languages, including Chinese, Japanese and Russian.

Visit the free GHS web tool here: <http://ghs.dhigroup.com/>

TRANSITION PERIOD

Proper classification and labelling are mandatory in countries which have already implemented the GHS. Other countries have introduced a transition period to help the industry move from the current set of rules to the GHS. Typically, there are different deadlines for substances and mixtures and the update of their safety data sheets. Again, referring to local authorities is essential.

NOTABLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CLP AND GHS

The EU has not implemented all hazard categories comprised under the GHS. As a result, some substances or mixtures classified under the GHS are considered 'not classified' in the EU. Conversely, the Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Chemicals (CLP, which is the EU implementation of GHS) has introduced elements which are not part of the GHS, such as special labelling phrases called 'EUH' phrases. The CLP also contains a mandatory list of harmonised classifications.

NOTIFICATION OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING IN THE EU

Manufacturers and importers of chemical substances in the EU must notify the classification and labelling of substances to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). The information is made publicly available through a database named Classification and Labelling Inventory. Classification of substances in imported mixtures must be notified if the substance concentration exceeds a certain limit.

CHEMCLASS – GHS CLASSIFICATION OF MIXTURES

Our ChemClass classification module helps you to comply with the different GHS implementations worldwide.

TRAINING

Besides applying our knowledge of and our solutions for hazard communication and management, we want to share it with you and your staff.

Our courses are based on the problems you experience in your daily work to ensure that they are immediately applicable to your day-to-day challenges.

Find out more here: www.theacademybydhi.com