

To alleviate confusion with how companies represented their chemicals, OSHA has adopted the Globally Harmonized System, commonly referred to as “GHS.” Manufacturers and distributors of hazardous chemicals and products now standardize how they categorize the hazards of their products, AND how they portray them for you.

- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are being converted to Safety Data Sheets (SDS). All SDS will have consistent sections and consistent information on them, making it easier for you to interpret. 16 sections, 12 of which are required in the US, every time, all the time (Sections 12-15 are not required – Ecological information, Disposal considerations, Transport information, Regulatory information)!
- Icons or Pictograms or Symbols are all standardized. See the handout for a game on GHS pictogram scramble!
- Chemical Labels are required to have a product identifier (Product Name)
- Chemical Labels will contain other pertinent information: Signal Words (Danger or Warning)
- Chemical Labels will have standardized Hazard Statements (Flammable, may cause liver/kidney damage, etc.)
- Chemical Labels will have Precautionary Statements (How to store and protect yourself from exposure)



Due to the timeline issued by OSHA, until June 1, 2016, you may still see some old MSDS and labels. Tell your supervisor about any chemicals in your control that do not meet the new standards.

Deadlines

June 1, 2015 – Chemical Manufacturers must have new SDS completed, and updated labels on all new chemicals produced.

December 1, 2015 – The distributor shall not ship containers with old labels

June 1, 2016 – Employers shall have all labeling updated and have trained all staff on newly identified physical or health hazards.

See if you can align the symbols with their meaning...

GHS Symbol Scramble – ANSWER KEY



Health Hazard – Could... Respiratory System Damage, Mutate your Germ Cells, Cause Cancer, Damage Reproductive System, Specifically Damage 1 or more Organs, Cause difficulty Breathing



Oxidizing – causes or contributes to the combustion and continual burning of other materials.



Irritant – May quickly affect the body if inhaled, ingested or absorbed. Commonly a skin and eye irritant. May damage the respiratory system with a single exposure.



Corrosive – Corrosive material that may cause skin and eye damage



Acute Toxicity – More dangerous than an irritant, quicker acting, and routes into the body are the same: inhaled, ingested or absorbed.



Environmental – Not required in the US. Either causes short-term or long-term ill effects to the aquatic environment.



Flammable – Flammable substance: Gas, aerosol, liquid or solid. May be self-reactive or self-heating. May emit flammable gases when it contacts water.



Explosive – May explode, possible self-reactive substance/mixture.



Compressed Gas – Compressed gas that may be liquefied, refrigerated liquefied, or dissolved.

GHS Symbols Scramble



Acute Toxicity



Compressed Gas



Corrosive



Environmental



Explosive



Flammable



Health Hazard



Irritant



Oxidizing