

WHAT IS GHS?

GHS = GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION & LABELING OF CHEMICALS



GHS is a system that's been created by the United Nations for standardizing the classification and labeling of chemicals throughout the world. It includes two major elements:

1. Defining environmental, physical and health hazards from chemicals
 2. Communicating these hazards and protective measures on standardized labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- » Under the new GHS format, labels have 6 elements and SDS sheets have 16 elements.

WHMIS 2015 OVERVIEW

WHMIS IS A NATIONAL HAZARD COMMUNICATION SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE SAFE USE OF HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS IN CANADIAN WORKPLACES. USE WHMIS TO UNDERSTAND:

- Classification criteria
- Label requirements
- Safety data sheet (SDS) requirements (formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheet)

The implementation of GHS in WHMIS will help Canada's hazard communication system to be more aligned with those of other countries. The benefits include a globally-standardized approach for hazard classification and hazard communication (labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)).

CHECKLIST & RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES



**MANDATORY
MAY 31ST
2017**

- Schedule and document periodic re-training on pictograms, labels and SDS.
- Post WHMIS/GHS signs, posters, and hand out wallet cards.
- Be able to demonstrate that workers clearly understand the hazards associated with each chemical they're exposed to, along with practice measures they must take.
- Separate SDS and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) binders and sheets as part of the management system. This will help you create secondary container labels with SDS information and determine which chemicals haven't been updated.

**JUNE 1ST
2017
TO MAY 31ST
2018**

- Identify secondary container labeling needs and procedures.
- Purchase GHS labeling equipment and supplies.
- Implement labeling procedures (create your own labels or order pre-printed versions) based on new SDS sheets.
- Archive old MSDS for determined amount of time (we recommend 30 years).
- Re-train on WHMIS 2015/GHS as well as your existing WHMIS until full conversion to WHMIS 2015/GHS is complete.

**JUNE 1ST
2018
TO NOV. 30TH
2018**

- Update your chemical database as new SDSs are received.
- Review and ensure that all MSDS chemicals have been converted to SDS format.
- Notify and document your communications with suppliers who have not provided new SDS information.
- Audit all containers for compliance with updated regulations. Establish policies to control improperly labeled containers.

**DECEMBER 1ST
2018**

- Ensure your training policy is in place, including new and existing chemical and internal product changes. Annual training is always recommended.
 - Update and complete a written WHMIS program that includes a system of labeling, pictograms, training schedule and how/where to obtain more information.
 - Perform audits as conditions change or once a year to ensure program effectiveness.
- Note any new hazards identified on SDS and potential Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) changes.
 - As new chemicals are brought into your facility, new hazard and PPE needs may be created.
 - Ensure your written WHMIS program is updated and reflects all internal and external changes.
 - Provide training to all new employees working with hazardous chemicals.

GOT QUESTIONS? GIVE US A CALL TODAY.