SafeBridge® Chemical Compliance: Hazard Communication and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification & Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) Services

SafeBridge® Consultants experts have experience in assisting clients with compliance to global hazard communication regulations. Our team includes biologists, chemists, industrial hygienists, and toxicologists, including professionals who are qualified by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) as Safety Data Sheet Registered Professionals.

We have provided hazard communication program support for clients in the U.S., Canada, EU, Asia, and Australia including developing thousands of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) in over 25 jurisdictions and in 30 languages. Following are some services we provide for Hazard Communication:

▶ Program development and auditing
▶ Employee training program development and presentation
▶ Chemical inventory
▶ Chemical hazard classification according to GHS
▶ Preparation of SDSs according to local GHS requirements
▶ Preparation of Exposure Scenarios and SDS Annex according to EU REACH (**R**egistration, **E**valuation, **A**uthorization and potential restriction of **Ch**emical substances)
▶ Developing industrial label content according to local GHS requirements
▶ Developing consumer label content according to local consumer protection requirements

What is GHS?

The GHS is a standardized system created by the United Nations (UN) to communicate the hazards of chemicals through consistent hazard classification and preparation of SDSs and labels. Implementation of the GHS is expected to enhance protection of human health and the environment, provide a hazard communication framework for countries without an existing system, reduce costs by minimizing the need for chemical testing, and facilitate international trade for chemicals by having an international system for hazard communication.

The GHS has been adopted into law by many countries including the in U.S., Canada, and Mexico, EU, Asia, and Australia. Please refer to this website for more information. However, it is important to note that some governments have adopted different versions of the UN GHS, and/or have amended the provisions to include country-specific regulations that were part of their previous hazard communication regulations. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

▶ Hazards Not Otherwise Classified (HNOC) in the U.S.
▶ Biological hazards in Canada
▶ Specific label requirements in the EU, Brazil, and China

Important Dates or Timing

Compliance dates have <u>already passed</u> for implementing GHS in the countries or regions listed above. SDSs and labels must be updated as new information becomes available that impacts chemical hazard classification or the means to protect against or respond to chemical hazards.

In the EU, Annex VIII amending Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP) has been adopted to standardize information provided to Poison Centres, with compliance dates beginning in 2021. Further, Annex II has been amended to include updated concerning the compilation of SDSs, alignment of requirements for nanomaterials, information for substances and mixtures with endocrine-disrupting properties, and the addition of Specific Concentration Limits (SCLs), M-factors, and Acute Toxicity Estimates (ATEs). Manufacturers, suppliers, and European importers should begin preparing now to ensure they complete all the notifications by the compliance deadline.

Who Needs Hazard Communication Services?

All chemical manufacturers, distributors and employers who utilize hazardous chemicals in the workplace are obligated to comply with hazard communication regulations.

SafeBridge® Can Help – Contact Us Today!

For assistance Hazard Communication regulations, please contact us at +1 (650) 961-4820 or complete the Contact Us form.

Related Resources:
- ▶ OSHA Hazard Communication Standard
- ▶ OSHA GHS Factsheet (PDF)
- ▶ Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety: GHS
- ▶ Government of Canada: WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) 2015
- ▶ European Commission: Classification and Labelling (CLP/GHS)