THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)

What is the GHS?

- A world-wide approach to defining and classifying hazards, and communicating information on labels and safety data sheets.

The Scope of the GHS

- Covers all hazardous chemical substances, dilute solutions, and mixtures.
- Requires chemical manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors to standardize hazardous classification criteria, labels, and safety data sheets.
- Hazard Communication
  - Labels
  - Safety Data Sheets

Key Label Elements

Product identifier
Supplier identifier
Chemical identity
Hazard pictograms
Signal words
Hazard statements
Precautionary information

Pictogram Shape and Colour

- Pictograms will have a black symbol on a white background with a red diamond frame. A black frame may be used for shipments within one country.

GHS Pictograms

Signal Words

"Danger" or "Warning"

- Used to emphasize hazard and discriminate between levels of hazard.

Hazard Statements

- A single harmonized hazard statement for each level of hazard within each hazard class
  - Example: Flammable liquids
    - Category 1: Extremely flammable liquid and vapour
    - Category 2: Highly flammable liquid and vapour
    - Category 3: Flammable liquid and vapour
    - Category 4: Combustible liquid

Precautionary Information

- Label should include precautionary information describing recommended measures to minimize or prevent adverse effects from chemical exposure.

Role of the Safety Data Sheet in the GHS

- The Safety Data Sheet should provide comprehensive information about a chemical substance or mixture.
- Employers and employees use the Safety Data Sheet as a source of information about hazards and to obtain advice on safety precautions.

Safety Data Sheets Transition

- Replace current Material Safety Data Sheets by requesting Safety Data Sheets from all suppliers

Safety Data Sheet Format: 16 headings

1. Identification
2. Hazard(s) identification
3. Composition/information on ingredients
4. First-aid measures
5. Fire-fighting measures
6. Accidental release measures
7. Handling and storage
8. Exposure control/personal protection

Safety Data Sheet Format: 16 headings (cont.)

9. Physical and chemical properties
10. Stability and reactivity
11. Toxicological information
12. Ecological information
13. Disposal considerations
14. Transport information
15. Regulatory information
16. Other information