



Weekly Safety Meeting

Company Name	Project Name	Supervisor	Date

Globally Harmonized System

Almost every country has different labeling and classification criteria for shipping, handling and managing chemicals; including the storage, treatment, and disposal of chemicals, chemical waste and their environmental controls. Because of all the differences, it created confusion and difficulty in understanding the chemical hazards. So, a worldwide effort was made by the United Nations to have a standardized common way to identify chemicals and how to use them safely for all countries. This included the need to change the communication format of the chemical's *Safety Data Sheets (SDS)*.

Under the former *Hazard Communication Standard, (§1910.1200 or §1926.95)*, the safety objective for all Employers was to provide Employees the "*Right-To-Know*" about chemical hazards that could be harmful to them when the exposure to chemical hazards exist or could reasonably be expected to develop in the workplace when employees handle or use chemicals. The problem was that the chemical information was too difficult to understand creating a situation where Employers were not being effective in facilitating the chemical hazard information to employees. This resulted in employees not understanding or realizing the severity of the chemical hazards they were being exposed to. **Under the new Global Harmonized System (GHS) requirements, the safety objective is for all employees to have the "Right-To-Understand". Effective immediately, every employer has until December 1, 2013 to train all their employees on the new GHS requirements. Failure could result in the issuance of OSHA fines.**

Under the new requirements, chemical manufacturers from all counties will now be required to follow one standardized systematic format for classifying and labeling chemicals and to provide the same detailed information. The main objective of GHS is to identify any chemical that contains *physical, health* and/or *environmental hazards* that can be harmful and threatening to humans.

The GHS - Safety Data Sheets (SDS) – is a detailed source of information for learning about the chemicals characteristics and how to safely use chemicals. This replaces the former *Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)*. All *Safety Data Sheets (SDS)* will soon be reformatted and re-written to follow the international GHS format for the classification and labeling of all chemicals. The GHS has established a new standardized format for Safety Data Sheets (SDS). The SDS must contain the characteristics and hazards of each chemical broken down into 16 sections.

Chemical labels and Safety Data Sheets are the key sources of information for learning about how to safely use chemicals. All chemical labels and Safety Data Sheets will soon be written to follow the Globally Harmonized System (GHS), a worldwide effort by the United Nations to have common ways to describe chemicals and how to use them safely. With GHS, chemical labels and Safety Data Sheets from manufacturers in many counties will now offer the same information in the new format. Chemical Manufacturers have until June 2015 to be in compliance.

Chemical Labels that are compliant with GHS must have five (5) things:

- **Product Identifier** – this gives the name of the chemical, part numbers or other Identifiers, and the name and address of the manufacturer or supplier.
- **Signal Words** that tell us about the hazard level of the chemical. *Danger* is for severe hazards and *Warning* is for less severe hazards. Sometimes there is no signal word, but that does not mean that the product is hazard free.
- **Hazard Statement** that describes what kind of harm the chemical can cause.
- **Pictograms** which are symbols that instantly identify the kind of hazard the chemical poses.
- **Precautionary Statements** that describe what we need to do to be safe when using the chemical.

Ensure to follow these simple steps:

- SDS Stations are set up containing the SDS Manual and are immediately accessible to employees.
- ALL employees understand where to find the company's *SDS Manual* containing the company's written Chemical Safety - GHS HazCom Program, an Approved Chemical Inventory List and *Safety Data Sheets* for each chemical.
- All chemical containers have a proper *GHS Label* and all employees are trained to understand the Pictograms
- All chemical labels include the *Pictograms, Product Name* and information regarding the *Product Hazards*
- Replace torn, damaged, defaced and unreadable chemical labels
- Label smaller containers that have chemicals were transferred into them when they will be used for more than one work shift or if it will be used by more than one employee.

GHS

This Toolbox Meeting is intended as an overview of key points regarding this subject and is not intended to be complete training in accordance with any regulatory standards.



Safety by Design

Weekly Safety Meeting

ADDITIONAL TOPICS COVERED: (I.E. Emergency Plan)

1.
2.
3.

MEETING ATTENDEES:

PRINT NAME	SIGN NAME	EMPLOYEE NUMBER
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

GHS

This Toolbox Meeting is intended as an overview of key points regarding this subject and is not intended to be complete training in accordance with any regulatory standards.