



OSHA Training Deadline for New Safety Data Sheets – December 2013!

OSHA has modified the Hazard Communication Standard in order to align it with the Global Harmonization System (GHS) for the classification and labeling of chemicals. GHS is a system that is used for “standardizing” the classification and labeling of chemicals worldwide. The goal is to increase the quality and uniformity of information and make access to chemical information easier and faster.

These changes are subject to several deadlines over the next couple of years. The first deadline is now looming. **Employers must train employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet (SDS) format by December 1, 2013.** The training should focus on helping your employees understand the new system’s labeling changes and how those symbols represent hazards. They need to know how the new information can be found on the newly formatted SDS’s compared to the previous Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). If you have already completed your Hazard Communication training for 2013, schedule an additional session before the end of the year to communicate this change in systems. If you are developing 2013 training, be sure you train on the new labels and safety data sheets!

OSHA Timeline for GHS Implementation:

Effective Completion Date	Requirements	Who
December 1, 2013	Train employees on the new label elements and SDS format.	Employers
June 1, 2015	This date coincides with the European Union implementation date for classification of mixtures.	Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers
June 1, 2015 December 1, 2015	Compliance with all modified provisions of this final rule, except distributors may ship products labeled by manufacturers under the old system until December 1, 2015.	Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers
June 1, 2016	Update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication program as necessary, and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards.	Employers
Transition Period to the effective completion dates noted above	May comply with either 29 CFR 1910.1200 (the final standard), or the current standard, or both	Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors, and employers

SMG has developed a step by step process for integrating the GHS requirements into your annual Hazard Communication training and overall written program. Contact SMG to find out how to address these new requirements and discuss the best approach for your program and facility.

Kevin Chaplin (502) 587-6482, Ext. 208
kevinc@smithmanage.com

Sarah Carty (859) 231-8936, Ext. 107
sarahc@smithmanage.com