

OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) is now aligned with the **Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)**.

- When OSHA made this update to the HCS in 2012 they enacted a universal and easier-to-understand approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets (SDS).

**RIGHT TO KNOW
INFORMATION
STATION**

**SAFETY DATA SHEETS
FOR
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

0003023

- ★ Workers have the right to know and understand the hazardous properties of the chemicals in the workplace to which they may be exposed.
- ★ Workers have the right to all pertinent information that will enable them to work with or around such chemicals in a safe manner.

The Hazard Communication Standard (HCS), that aligns with the international standard (GHS), has key requirements that help to ensure chemical safety in the workplace.

- Chemical manufacturers and importers are required to evaluate the hazards of the chemicals they produce or import and prepare labels and safety data sheets (SDS) to convey the hazard information.
- When a workplace or jobsite has hazardous chemicals, those materials must be identified with proper labels and safety data sheets (SDS) must be readily available for workers.
- Workers must be trained on the safe ways they are expected to handle hazardous materials. Employee training must include information on the hazards of the chemicals in their work area and the measures to be used to protect themselves.

OSHA Standard 1910.1200(g)(8) *The employer shall maintain in the workplace copies of the required safety data sheets for each hazardous chemical and shall ensure that they are readily accessible during each work shift to employees when they are in their work area(s).*

- There are 16 required sections that can be found on every SDS.
- Employees should be trained on how to read an SDS.

The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) and the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) require universal pictograms to be displayed on labels to alert users of the chemical hazards to which they may be exposed.

- The GHS has 9 pictograms that are used on hazardous products.

The Environment pictogram is non-mandatory in the HCS because environmental hazards are not within OSHA's jurisdiction.

- Workers should become familiar with these images and the hazards they represent.
- Labels on hazardous chemical containers must remain legible and should not be defaced or removed.










GHS PICTOGRAMS		
Health Hazard  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carcinogen • Mutagenicity • Reproductive Toxicity • Respiratory Sensitizer • Target Organ Toxicity • Aspiration Toxicity 	Flame  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flammables • Pyrophorics • Self-Heating • Emits Flammable Gas • Self-Reactives • Organic Peroxides 	Exclamation Mark  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritant (skin and eye) • Skin Sensitizer • Acute Toxicity (harmful) • Narcotic Effects • Respiratory Tract Irritant • Hazardous to Ozone Layer (Non-Mandatory)
Gas Cylinder  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gases Under Pressure 	Corrosion  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin Corrosion/ Burns • Eye Damage • Corrosive to Metals 	Exploding Bomb  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explosives • Self-Reactives • Organic Peroxides
Flame Over Circle  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxidizers 	Environment (Non-Mandatory)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Toxicity 	Skull and Crossbones  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute Toxicity (fatal or toxic)

Image: OSHA Quick Card 3491

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