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**22 March 2012**

**OSHA Global Harmonized Hazard Communication Standard Fact Sheet**

*OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS), first issued in 1983, was designed to ensure that employers provide information about potential health and physical hazards and associated protective measures to their workers. OSHA has just announced March 20, 2012, a final rule updating OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard to align with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals.* [*Globally\_Harmonized\_System\_Guide*](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html)*. Employers must start training to understand the new label elements and Safety Data Sheets format by December 1, 2013.*

**Changes to Anticipate**

The revised [Hazard Communication Standard](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjkyMjU2NyZlbWFpbGlkPW1mcmVlQHBtcGEub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1tZnJlZUBwbXBhLm9yZyZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&108&&&http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs-final-rule.html) will now provide [specific criteria for health and physical hazards](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjkyMjU2NyZlbWFpbGlkPW1mcmVlQHBtcGEub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1tZnJlZUBwbXBhLm9yZyZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&109&&&http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html#3.0) to help chemical manufacturers and importers classify chemical hazards. Hazard classification is the procedure of identifying and evaluating available scientific evidence to determine if a chemical is hazardous, and the degree of the hazard.

Chemical manufacturers and importers will be required to provide [new labels](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjkyMjU2NyZlbWFpbGlkPW1mcmVlQHBtcGEub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1tZnJlZUBwbXBhLm9yZyZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&110&&&http://www.osha.gov/Publications/HazComm_QuickCard_Labels.html) that include a harmonized signal word, pictogram, and hazard statement based on the hazard classification. Precautionary statements must also be provided. [Safety data sheets](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjkyMjU2NyZlbWFpbGlkPW1mcmVlQHBtcGEub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1tZnJlZUBwbXBhLm9yZyZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&111&&&http://www.osha.gov/Publications/HazComm_QuickCard_SafetyData.html) (SDS) will have a specified 16-section format.

The modified HCS will also require that workers receive information and training by **December 1, 2013** to facilitate recognition and understanding of the new labels and safety data sheets.

**Effective Dates**

Employers must train workers on the new label elements and SDS format by **December 1, 2013**. Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors, and employers must comply with all modified provisions of the final rule by **June 1, 2015**. However, distributors may ship products labeled by manufacturers under the old system until **December 1, 2015**. By **June 1, 2016**, employers must update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication programs as necessary, and provide additional worker training for new identified physical and health hazards. During this transition period, all chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors, and employers may comply with either 29 CFR 1910.1200 (this final standard), or the current standard, or both. See table below for phase in dates required:

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| **Effective Completion Date** | **Requirement(s)** | **Who** |
| December 1, 2013 | Train employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet (SDS) format. | Employers |
| June 1, 2015\*  December 1, 2015 | Compliance with all modified provisions of this final rule, except:  The Distributor shall not ship containers labeled by the chemical manufacturer or importer unless it is a GHS label | 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 |

Source: <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/effectivedates.html>

**Educational Materials on HCS and GHS Now Available**

OSHA has issued several new educational resources to provide workers and employers helpful information about OSHA's harmonized Hazard Communication Standard. QuickCards on safety data sheets, labels and pictograms are [available here](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjkyMjU2NyZlbWFpbGlkPW1mcmVlQHBtcGEub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1tZnJlZUBwbXBhLm9yZyZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&115&&&http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghsquickcards.html) in both English and Spanish. More details about OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard Final Rule are also available in OSHA's new [fact sheet](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjkyMjU2NyZlbWFpbGlkPW1mcmVlQHBtcGEub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1tZnJlZUBwbXBhLm9yZyZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&116&&&http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/HCSFactsheet.html).

**For Additional Information**

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| OSHA's new harmonized Hazard Communication page  OSHA's new harmonized Hazard Communication page. |

Further information for workers, employers and downstream users of hazardous chemicals can be reviewed at OSHA's [Safety and Health Topics page on Hazard Communication](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjkyMjU2NyZlbWFpbGlkPW1mcmVlQHBtcGEub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1tZnJlZUBwbXBhLm9yZyZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&117&&&http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html), which includes links to OSHA's revised Hazard Communication Standard and guidance materials such as frequently asked questions, QuickCards, and OSHA's [Guide to the GHS](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTIwMzIyLjYzMzU3ODEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjkyMjU2NyZlbWFpbGlkPW1mcmVlQHBtcGEub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1tZnJlZUBwbXBhLm9yZyZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&118&&&http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html).

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