



**Occupational Safety
and Health Administration**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

GHS Update

Maureen Ruskin

OSHA, Directorate of Standards & Guidance



Overview

- UN Subcommittee Activities:
 - Potential updates for Revision 6
 - Working group activities
 - Program of work for the next Biennium
- US moving forward

UN Subcommittee



OSHA[®]

UN Sub-Committee – Current Biennium

- The 2013/14 Biennium ends in December:
Notable work concluding
 - New physical hazard classes and hazard categories
 - Guidance/Clarifications and corrections
 - Example of labeling of a small packaging



New Hazard Classes/Categories

- **Pyrophoric Gas**
 - This will be added as a subcategory to the flammable gas hazard class.
 - Similar in scope as HCS definition
- **Desensitized Explosive**
 - This is a new hazard class

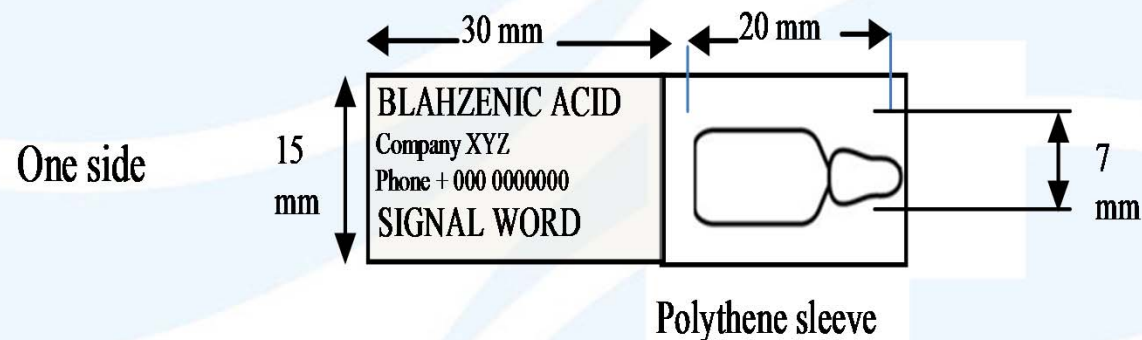
Guidance, Clarifications and Corrections

- Comprehensive Guidance for the physical properties in Section 9 of the SDS
 - Three Tables
 - Table 1 – Guidance for the mandatory properties
 - Table 2 – Guidance for physical properties related to classification criteria
 - Table 3 – Additional properties that may be of interest to downstream users
 - PCI editorial revisions
 - Precautionary statement corrections

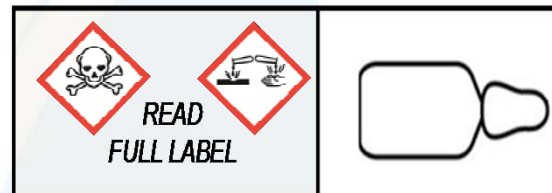


Example for labeling on small packages

Inner packaging: immediate container with minimum required GHS label elements



Reverse side



Working group Activities

- Precautionary Statements
- Nanomaterials
- Practical Classification Issues
- Global List
- Combustible Dust

Precautionary Statements

- Work stream 1:
 - to develop proposals to rationalise and improve the usability of hazard and precautionary statements. These may include proposals to eliminate redundancies among these statements, and proposals for further guidance and precedence rules for use of the statements.
- Work stream 2:
 - to address any other issues relating to Annexes 1-3 and the use of hazard and precautionary statements that the subcommittee wishes to refer to the informal correspondence group.

Practical Classification Issues Working Group Program of Work

- Provide consistency in the health hazard chapter definitions
- Development of a new example
- Review various terms such as UVCB, complex substance, and complex mixture to determine if GHS definitions are needed



Global List

- Previously the Subcommittee generated a list of guiding principles for generating a global list
- Developing a pilot program:
 - Test the guiding principles
 - Characterize the amount of resources necessary to develop a list
 - Partnering with OECD

Nanomaterials

- Terms of Reference:
 - (a) To establish whether there is a need to amend the GHS to make clear that nano-forms of a substance are within scope of the GHS;
 - (b) To review the classification and labelling criteria in the GHS to establish whether they are appropriate for nano, as well as bulk-forms of a substance;
 - (c) To review the content of safety data sheets set out in the GHS in terms of their applicability to nano-forms of a substance;
 - (d) To report back to the Sub-Committee on the outcomes of (a) to (c) and to propose further work, as appropriate.
- “Can we make classification of nanomaterials by applying the existing criteria in the GHS?”
 - collecting data from some examples of nanomaterial substances and performing a classification exercise.

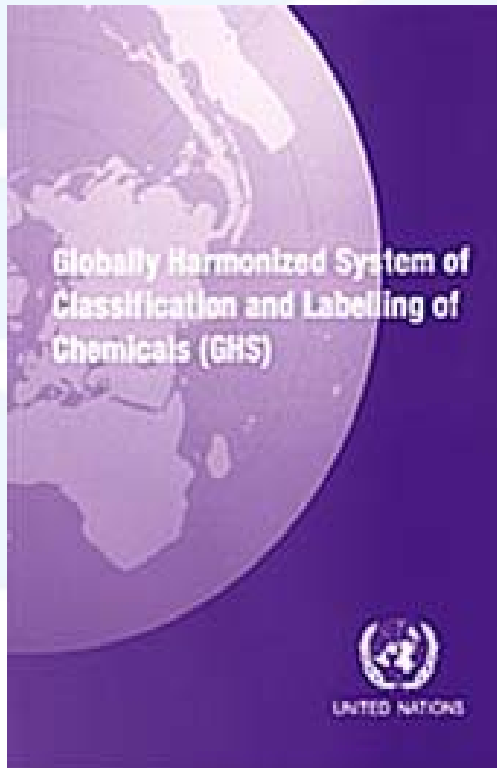
Combustible Dust Update

- Combustible dust Programme of Work
 - Workstream 1: review the existing national consensus and reference regulations developed by competent authorities, identify the common pieces of information used to communicate the hazards, and determine how and if this information is to be addressed;
 - Workstream 2: ensure that any information proposed to be included in section 9 of the SDS is communicated to the working group on Section 9 of Annex 4;
 - Workstream 3: start the discussion and develop an outline or work plan for guidance or a separate chapter in the GHS containing more detailed information on the conditions under which a dust explosion hazard could be encountered.
- Status
 - Completed work on Workstream 1 and 2
 - Concentrated on Workstream 3 during this biennium

Looking ahead

- Work will continue on
 - Combustible Dust; global list of classifications pilot program; nanomaterials; precautionary statements; physical hazard test methods; PCI working group;
- Potential new work items
 - review of the explosive chapter for guidance for workplace handling; Labeling of small packages – initiate work on another example

UN GHS Links



- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe GHS Subcommittee
- http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html



Aligns with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals

Hazard Communication

The standard that gave workers the right to know, now gives them the right to understand



OSHA Next Steps

- Interagency group will continue to hold public meetings prior to the Subcommittee Meeting.
- OSHA is exploring the potential changes to maintain alignment with GHS.



OSHA Moving Forward

- Future Proposal(s): OSHA will take a similar approach as it did with the rulemaking to initially alignment with the GHS
 - Maintain the same basic framework of the HCS
 - OSHA Proposal(s) will be limited in scope to only amend the provisions of the HCS that must be changed to maintain alignment with the GHS
 - Maintain Protections



OSHA Information

Websites:

- HazCom 2012 Webpage
<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>
- Safety & Health Topics Webpage
<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index2.html>

Contact information:

- Ruskin.maureen@dol.gov





**Occupational Safety
and Health Administration**

www.osha.gov
800-321-OSHA



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR