



Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

**Presentation to RCC Stakeholders - Webinar Session
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Health Canada

U.S. OSHA



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RCC – The Way Forward

- An initial 29 item RCC Action Plan was announced in December 2011. We are now entering the final months of the initial Action Plan.
- In recent Canada Gazette and Federal Register consultations, PCO/OIRA received stakeholder submissions representing 160 organizations. Canada and the US are committed to another phase of work and PCO/OIRA are considering input received with Departments.
- Canada and the US will develop a 2014 outline of a forward plan for regulatory cooperation by the Spring, building on progress to date and lessons learned through the implementation of the initial Action Plan.
- Both governments plan to engage stakeholders in the development of the next phase of work. Additional details on consultations will be shared as they become available.



Overview of GHS

RCC commitment on workplace chemicals is to:

- Align and synchronize implementation of common classification and labelling requirements for workplace chemicals within the mandate of the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Health Canada through:
- Making compatible our respective standards-related measures; and
- Enhancing and strengthening the sharing and exchange of regulatory information.



Overview of GHS

Key principles:

- No reduction in worker health and safety in either jurisdiction;
- Respecting the respective regulatory process; and
- Respecting the legislative framework.



Progress update – Coordination Mechanism

- MOU formally signed between Health Canada and the US-OSHA at the RCC meeting in June 2013 that:
 - Establishes collaborative process
 - Formally establishes a working group
 - Outlines common principles
 - Allows for ongoing alignment
- Health Canada and US-OSHA working group meetings.
- Alignment of positions in advance of UN meetings.



Progress update – Coordinate Technical Interpretation

- Health Canada and the provinces and territories have put in place a training working group that will feed into the development of joint and/or complementary educational materials with the US.
- US-OSHA is developing technical guidance products and will consult with Health Canada prior to publication.
 - Hazard Classification Guidance
 - Model Training



Progress update – Implement GHS

- US-OSHA released its Final Rule in March 2012.
- US-OSHA conducted a stakeholder meeting prior in November 2013 to discuss the December 2013 UN Subcommittee meeting.
- Health Canada conducted consultations on a de-classified version of its proposed regulations between June and September 2013.
- Health Canada conducted ‘face to face’ meetings with the stakeholders in October 2013.



Progress update – Implement GHS

US-OSHA is on target in implementing their Hazard Communication Standard aligned with the GHS.

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	Compliance with all modified provisions of this final rule, except:	Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers
December 1, 2015	The Distributor shall not ship containers labeled by the chemical manufacturer or importer unless it is a GHS label	
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



Progress update – Implement GHS

Nationally Coordinated Approach to Implementation in Canada

- Timing – aiming to begin implementing GHS in Canada by June 2015.
- Transition period would provide sufficient time for industry to make necessary system changes and train workers.
- Timing and transition for GHS implementation should be synchronized across Canada.
- Ongoing engagement with stakeholders on changes to be made to WHMIS to implement GHS.



Progress update – Education and Awareness

Development and Implementation of Awareness and Guidance Materials

- Health Canada and the provinces and territories are currently working on awareness and guidance materials for the GHS regulatory requirements.
- Joint development of guidance and awareness materials by Health Canada and US-OSHA will occur where possible.



Progress update – Education and Awareness

- Health Canada is assessing its website content to ensure that both the existing WHMIS and the new regulatory regime are supported during the program transition period.
- In the interim, updated information on the anticipated GHS system will be provided through collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.
- Health Canada is developing a new guidance manual to assist suppliers and importers to comply with the new regulatory regime. This product will be released for multipartite review once the new regime is finalized but before it is put in place.



Progress update – Education and Awareness

- US - OSHA has been continuing on their campaign on public awareness through webinars, presentations and guidance materials on OSHA Hazard Communication web page
 - US - OSHA has give dozens of webinars and including a series of webinars partnered with the Society of Chemical Hazard Communication
 - US - OSHA Updates the Hazard Communication webpage as new guidance becomes available
 - Guidance materials currently available include:
 - Guidance on labeling, Safety data sheets, training and a series of frequently asked questions.
 - Small Entity compliance guide will be available later this month



Next steps – Education and Awareness

Ongoing work with US OSHA on harmonization

Next Steps – US-OSHA:

- Issue technical guidance documents
 - Hazard classification
 - Model training

Next Steps – Health Canada:

- Technical guidance documents (CGII)
- Awareness building
- CCOHS updated introductory course and suppliers course – late spring 2014



Questions