

Implementation of the GHS in Canada for Workplace Chemicals

Stephanie Reid and Kim Godard
Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch
Health Canada

Presentation abstract

Canada is proposing to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals for workplace chemicals in alignment with the U.S. OSHA Hazard Communication Standard 2012. Canada has just undertaken consultations on a draft proposal to implement the GHS for workplace chemicals. The next step will involve official publication of a proposed regulation for consultation and eventual transition to the GHS for the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) in Canada.

While alignment with the U.S. OSHA Hazard Communication Standard 2012 is a primary goal, some requirements would remain unique to Canada in order to maintain current levels of protection for Canadian workers and in order to respect the Canadian legal context. Bilingual (French/English) communication requirements, biohazards, and post-market review of claims for confidential business information are a few examples of areas where Canada does not propose to fully align with the U.S. requirements. An overview of the Canadian proposals and the proposed process for transition will be of interest to companies doing business in Canada or with Canadian customers.