

OSHA GHS Update

Maureen Ruskin, Director,
Office of Chemical Hazards/Metals, Directorate of Standards and Guidance,
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Jennifer Silk, Consultant

Presenter biography: Maureen Ruskin

Maureen Ruskin is currently the Office Director of the Office of Chemical Hazards – Metals (OCHM) in the Directorate of Standards and Guidance for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OCHM is responsible for regulations and guidance on exposures to toxic metals as well as aligning the Hazard Communication Standard with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). Ms. Ruskin joined OSHA in 1997, as an industrial engineer in the office of regulatory analysis, where she worked on several rulemaking projects including permissible exposure limits (PELs), methylene chloride, 1,3-Butadiene, and hexavalent chromium. Prior to working at OSHA, she worked in the chemical industry for approximately a dozen years.

Throughout her career she has represented OSHA on various committees including the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Interagency Testing Committee (ITC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH's) National Occupational Research Agenda. Ms. Ruskin currently represents OSHA as the Head of Delegation for the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

Presenter biography: Jennifer Silk

Jennifer Silk is retired from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), where she was Deputy Director of Standards and Guidance. Ms. Silk was the team leader for development of the original Hazard Communication Standard. She represented the US Government in negotiations to develop the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), chaired the international coordinating group that managed the development of the GHS, and served as the U.S. expert to the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS. She is now a consultant to OSHA, and a Training Advisor to the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR) on GHS issues. Ms. Silk was on the Board of Directors for the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC) for many years, and has served as President and Chair of the Board.