

South Korea's Updated GHS Standards and Implications for Companies



In 2019, the Ministry of Employment and Labor modified the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Under the amended OSHA, new requirements regarding (material) Safety Data Sheet(s)/(M)SDS(s) went into effect on January 16th, 2021.

The amended regulation applies to manufactures and importers of hazardous chemicals, based in South Korea.

Applicable enterprises should submit the (M)SDS to the MoEL before manufacturing in, or importing to, Korea. The transitional period for submission and deadlines, based on import volume, are as follows:

1. > 1,000 ton/y; before Jan. 16th, 2022
2. 100-1,000 ton/y; before Jan. 16th, 2023
3. 10-100 ton/y; before Jan. 16th, 2024
4. 1-10 ton/y; before Jan. 16th, 2025
5. < 1 ton/y; before Jan. 16th, 2026

CBI protection is clearly regulated in the amended K-OSHA. Manufacturers and importers based in South Korea can apply for CBI protection to the MoEL. Manufacturers based outside of South Korea may entrust a qualified OR to submit the application. **Must include the following: applicant information, reason for CBI protection, and hazardous classification of the chemical products/ingredients.**

If the product is classified under K-OSHA; you need to submit an SDS. If the product is not classified under K-OSHA; you need to provide full composition to the MoEL not to submit an SDS. Non-Korean companies cannot submit an SDS by themselves or apply for CBI, so they have two options: having their Korean importer complete the submission, or they may appoint an Only Representative (OR). The OR can only be appointed by the manufacturer or formulator, and the OR fulfils the role of a domestic importer.

Exemption for SDS submission is met for three main conditions: chemicals and chemical products for R&D purposes, consumer products, and products under other laws. Products under other laws fall under: dietary supplements (Health Functional Food Act), raw material substance (Act on Safety Control of Radioactive Rays), household chemical products for general consumers, hygiene products and advanced biomedicines.

Manufacturers or importers who import/manufacture non-hazardous chemical(s) do not need to provide the full composition to the MoEL **IF**: they submit SDS with full composition(100%) in Section 3 to the MoEL, **or** by confirming that some hidden substances in Section 3 are not hazardous. This is done by using a, "form no. 62," via the IT system.



MoEL — The Ministry of Employment and Labor

Responsible for occupational safety and health act.

KOSHA — Korean Occupational Safety and Healthy Agency

Responsible for review/authorization of SDS's.

OSHRI — Occupational Safety & Health Research Institute

Responsible for research and development guidelines.

South Korea recognizes the GHS (Globally Harmonized System) of classification, SDS's, and labeling of chemical substances.

CIRS has an extensive history of succeeding in Korean compliance. We value our customers' ability to deliver compliant products with ease to their Korean supply chain. With our own office in Seoul, we offer the following services:

- K-OSHA Consulting Services
- (M)SDS Preparation and Update
- OR Services
- (M)SDS Submission
- CBI Application and Extension