

## **GHS: Tales from the Frontline**

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### *Presenter biography*

Ms. Ria Scheuren is the Global Vice President of EHS and Product Stewardship at Houghton International. She has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering (*although she will freely tell you that she has never spent any of her career actually being a chemical engineer.*) She has spent the past 28+ years building a wide range of EHS and product stewardship related management experience in both private industry and consulting around the global. Early in her career, she worked as a consultant supporting a wide range of industries. For the past 20 years, Ms. Scheuren has focused on the specialty chemicals and petrochemical industries where she has held a gamut of senior-level management positions with global specialty chemical companies. Ms. Scheuren's career has had a strong focus on both the technical and management aspects of workplace safety, the environment and product stewardship. Her work has included hands-on development and implementation of corporate-wide EHS and product stewardship compliance and management systems, auditing, merger/acquisitions, accident investigation and root cause analysis, regulatory analysis, etc. In her current role, she works (*absurdly crazy hours*) combining her strategic knowledge and experience building a world-class EHS and Product Stewardship organization with her current employer. (*Since she has a husband, three kids, three cats and a dog that doesn't leave much free time.*) She has worked in the past with such organizations as Arkema Inc. (formerly Atofina Chemicals), Rohm&Haas, PQ Corporation, TOTAL Oil, Marathon Oil, Honeywell Specialty Materials, Lanxess Corporation, Gamesa Wind, to name a few.

### *Presentation abstract*

In May of 2012, OSHA officially adopted the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) which included a series of compliance deadlines for manufacturers, distributors and employers who are covered by the Hazard Communications Standard. The June 1, 2015 deadline which required manufacturers to have reclassified their hazardous chemicals in accordance with GHS-aligned requirements has come and gone. With almost a year of experience under our belt post June 1<sup>st</sup>, it's a good time to look back to assess where industry is related to GHS compliance and what we have learned from those in the front lines.

This presentation hopes to give the perspective of relatively small manufacturing companies who were faced with some unique and not so unique challenges in the implementation of GHS, including how to manage GHS when much of their hazard classification work depended on timely and accurate implementation by other organizations (suppliers). This presentation will hopefully share with you some common stories from the front line during the months leading up to and after the June 1, 2015 deadline and maybe provide some helpful insights to those of you who continue to be involved in GHS requirements moving forward.