

NEW OSHA STANDARD ACT NOW TO COMPLY

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In 2012, HAZARD COMMUNICATION
was the **#2** MOST FREQUENTLY
Cited OSHA standard.

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data sheet management.

WARNING ♦ DANGER ♦ WARNING ♦ DANGER

OSHA HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD ALIGNS WITH GHS

Understanding the Revised Hazard Communication Standard

WHAT IS IT?

To protect employees in the workplace, OSHA requires employers to distribute information on chemicals and their potential dangers. Employers with hazardous chemicals must have labels and safety data sheets available for exposed workers and train them to handle the chemicals appropriately.

WILL MY BUSINESS AND EMPLOYEES BE AFFECTED?

Over **5 million workplaces**, with approximately **43 million employees** in the United States will be directly affected by the revised Hazard Communication Standard (HCS).

To align with the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals, OSHA made the following changes to the HCS.

- **HAZARD CLASSIFICATION:** Provides specific criteria for health and physical hazards as well as classification of mixtures.
- **LABELS:** Chemical manufacturers and importers will be required to provide a label that includes a harmonized signal word, pictogram(s), hazard statement(s) and precautionary statement(s).
- MSDSs will transition to **Safety Data Sheets** (SDSs). SDSs will have a standardized 16-section format.



Employers have until **December 1st, 2013**, to train employees on the new standard

and until **June 1st, 2016**, to **FULLY IMPLEMENT THE NEW PROGRAM.**

THE BENEFITS OF THIS CHANGE

The GHS revisions to the Hazard Communication Standard for labeling and safety data sheets will enable employees exposed to workplace chemicals to more quickly obtain and more easily understand information about the hazards associated with those chemicals. This increases employee safety and health and reduces the number of accidents, fatalities, injuries and illnesses for everyone involved.

EFFECTIVE COMPLETION DATE	WHO DOES THIS AFFECT	REQUIREMENTS
DECEMBER 1, 2013	EMPLOYERS	Employers must train employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet (SDS) format.
JUNE 1, 2015	CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS, DISTRIBUTORS AND EMPLOYERS	Chemical manufacturers, importers and distributors must update all container labels and convert all of their MSDSs to the standard SDS format.
DECEMBER 1, 2015	CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS, DISTRIBUTORS AND EMPLOYERS	Distributors shall not ship containers labeled by the chemical manufacturer or importer unless it is a GHS label.
JUNE 1, 2016	EMPLOYERS	All employers shall, as necessary, update any alternative workplace labeling, update their hazard communication program and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards.