

GHS Is Coming Soon!

Global Harmonised System (GHS) is an international standard for the classification and labelling of hazardous substances and chemicals. Australia adopted GHS in 2012, with a five year transition period. This means that from 1 January 2017, all businesses* must comply with the new GHS system for chemical classification. The GHS does not apply to the transport of chemicals. Pictograms and classifications in the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG) will continue to be used. Everything you now do for transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, air and sea will stay the same.

*Legislation has been enacted in all States except VIC and WA, where GHS is recognised but not yet mandatory.

MAJOR CHANGES UNDER GHS

The major changes to product labelling are:

- Nine new standard pictograms to classify chemicals.
- A signal word – **DANGER** or **WARNING**. **DANGER** will be used to indicate a more severe hazard than **WARNING**. These words replace the old risk level classifications, such as **CAUTION** or **POISON**.

SAFETY DATA SHEETS

In addition to the label changes, there will be changes to safety data sheets (SDS, previously known as MSDS) to reflect the new classification and labelling system.

IMPLICATIONS TO YOUR BUSINESS

For any hazardous chemicals you intend to keep after 31 December 2016, you will need to ensure that the label complies with Australian GHS requirements. For non-compliant labels, this may mean re-labelling. You will also need to ensure you know how to access updated SDS.

Further information, including FAQ's, can be found at:

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/whs-information/hazardous-chemicals/ghs/pages/ghs>

GHS HAZARD PICTOGRAMS – PHYSICAL, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS



Flame Over Circle
(Oxidising)



Flame
(Flammable)



Exploding Bomb
(Explosive)



Skull & Crossbones
(Acute Toxicity)



Corrosion
(Corrosive)



Gas Cylinder
(Gas Under Pressure)



Health Hazard
(Chronic Health Hazard)



Environment
(Environmental)



Exclamation Mark
(Health Hazards)