

MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM

What Is It?

The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) is a hazard communication initiative of the United Nations, recently adopted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and is scheduled to be fully implemented by June 2016. The GHS standardizes the classification and labeling of hazardous chemicals, regardless of location or country of origin, and streamlines the format of safety data sheets (previously material safety data sheets).

ALERT!

Hazard Communication Changes

How does the Global Harmonizing System (GHS) change Hazard Communication at my installation?

- "Hazard Classification" rather than "hazard determination".
- "Safety data sheet" (rather than "material safety data sheet") uses a 16-section format.
- Labels are more defined with specific requirements.

SDS Format: 16 headings

SDS* is now in a standardized format:	9. Physical and chemical properties
1. Identification	10. Stability and reactivity
2. Hazard(s) identification	11. Toxicological information
3. Composition/information on ingredients	12. Ecological information*
4. First-aid measures	13. Disposal considerations*
5. Fire-fighting measures	14. Transport information*
6. Accidental release measures	15. Regulatory information
7. Handling and storage	16. Other information
8. Exposure control/personal protection	

New GHS Label (Sample)



Acetone

Danger! Highly flammable liquid and vapor
Causes severe eye irritation



Keep away from heat, sparks and flame – No smoking. Take precautionary measures against static discharge. Keep from direct sunlight. Keep container closed when not in use. Store in a cool/low temperature, well-ventilated place away from heat and ignition sources. Use only in a well-ventilated area. Avoid contact with eyes, skin and clothing. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, avoid direct contact. Flush eyes with water for at least 15 minutes while holding eyelids open.

All-Chem Supply Company
353 Water Street
Maplewood, NJ 01234
Tel: 973-555-4321

Pictograms

Pictograms are required in the revised Hazard Communication Standard. The nine pictograms below are standardized.



TIMELINE FOR COMPLIANCE

March 26, 2012	Final rule published in the <i>Federal Register</i> . Replaces the previous OSHA Hazard Communication Standard.
December 1, 2013	Deadline to train employees on the new label elements and Safety Data Sheet formats.
June 1, 2015	Deadline for manufacturers and employers to be in compliance with all modified sections of the rule except for the two following situations:
December 1, 2015	Date after which distributors may no longer ship products without compliant labels
June 1, 2016	Date by which employers must have updated workplace labeling systems and hazard communication programs / procedures.



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Prepared by Donna Chalmers

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