CWU Environmental Health & Safety

Globally Harmonized System Revisions to Labels and Safety Data Sheets

WISHA has revised its Hazard Communication Standard to align it with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). This revision of the Hazard Communication Standard includes two significant changes: (1) new labeling elements and (2) a standardized format for Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), formally known as Material Safety Data Sheets.

New Labeling Elements

1. **Product Identifier**
Identifies the substance by name or number
2. **Pictograms**
Convey specific information about the hazard of a substance
3. **Signal Word**
Alerts users on the severity of hazard
   - Danger: high hazard
   - Warning: low hazard
4. **Hazard Statements**
Describe the nature of the hazards of a substance
5. **Precautionary Statements**
Describe recommended measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to the substance or improper storage / handling

	Explosives. Self-reactives, Organic peroxides		Flammables, Self-reactives, Pyrophorics, Self-heating		Oxidizers
	Gas under pressure		Carcinogen, Reproductive/Target organ toxicity, Mutagenicity		Acute toxicity (severe)
	Environmental toxicity		Irritant, sensitizer, Acute toxicity, Respiratory tract irritation		Corrosive

6. **Supplier Information**
Name, address, and telephone number of the manufacturer, distributor, or importer

New Safety Data Sheet (SDS) Elements

Manufacturer, distributors, and importers are required to provide Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), to communicate the hazards of hazardous substances. The WISHA revision of the Hazard Communication Standard requires SDSs to follow a standardized 16-section format. The 16 sections are (sections most relevant to workplace health and safety are boxed):

1. Identification
Includes product identifier, manufacturer/distributor/importer contact information, emergency phone number, recommended uses, and restrictions on use.

2. Hazard(s) Identification
Includes all hazards regarding the substance and hazard/precautionary statements from label.

3. Composition/Information on Ingredients
Includes information on chemical ingredients and concentrations (for mixtures).

4. First-aid Measures
Includes information on symptoms/effects and required treatments.

5. Fire-fighting Measures
Lists suitable extinguishing methods and equipment, and chemical hazards created from a fire involving the substance.

6. Accidental Release Measures
Lists emergency procedures, protective equipment, and containment methods for cleanup.

7. Handling and Storage
Lists precautions for safe handling and storage, including incompatible chemicals.

8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection
Lists Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHS) Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) for chemical ingredients and appropriate engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment (PPE).

9. Physical and Chemical Properties
Lists the substance's physical and chemical properties.

10. Stability and Reactivity
Lists the substance's chemical stability and potential hazardous reactions.

11. Toxicological Information
Includes routes of exposure and related symptoms, acute and chronic effects, and numerical measures of toxicity.

12. Ecological Information
Includes environmental impact information like ecotoxicity, persistence and degradability, and mobility in soil.

13. Disposal Considerations
Includes description of waste residues and proper handling and disposal methods.

14. Transport Information
Includes information on packing/shipping methods in order to comply with DOT regulations.

15. Regulatory Information
Safety, health, and environmental regulations from state, federal, and overseas agencies for the substance.

16. Other Information
Includes date of preparation or last revision.

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