

## Are you GHS ready?



A new system of chemical classification and hazard communication is coming into effect and you need to be ready.

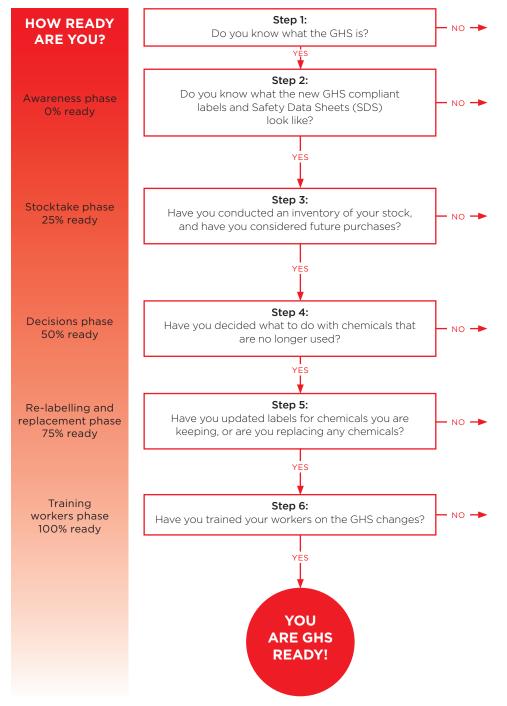
It's called the Globally Harmonised System (or GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. The new system replaces the existing system for classifying hazardous substances and dangerous goods in the workplace.

NSW businesses have until 31 December 2016 to become GHS ready.

This document outlines six simple steps to help you get there.

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## Six simple steps to get ready for the GHS



- Visit <u>safework.nsw.gov.au</u> and review Chapter 7 of the WHS Regulation. You will also find information about the relevant Codes of Practice, and guidance material.
- The GHS uses nine standard hazard pictograms to show how chemicals are classified, with one of two signal words - Danger or Warning.
- New labels include simpler hazard and precautionary statements.
- The current Australian 16-header format of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) will continue to apply.
- Conduct an inventory of your chemicals and identify which have GHS compliant and non-compliant labels and SDS.
- If your labels and SDS match the label sample in the SafeWork NSW GHS: What you need to know factsheet (catalogue no. SW08028, available on the SafeWork NSW website), they are GHS ready.
- Identify chemicals that are no longer used.
- Look for GHS compliant products before making future purchases, or consider buying smaller quantities before 31 December 2016.
- Make sure the chemicals you keep are correctly labelled, and obtain a new SDS.
- Alternatively, you can safely dispose or recycle them. You should contact an authorised chemical waste collector or recycler such as the local council, ChemClear, DrumMUSTER (for agricultural), or an Environment Protection Authority (EPA) licenced waste transporter. Visit epa.nsw.gov.au
- Contact the manufacturer/supplier/parent company to obtain the SDS for each chemical. (Note: Existing NOHSC and ADG Code labelled chemicals that you intend to keep past 31 December 2016 do not need to be re-labelled).
- Update your chemicals management systems, including keeping a record of the new SDS documents you have. Be sure to also update your hazardous chemicals register.
- Train your workers on how to understand the new GHS labels and SDS.
- Look at the new SDS for each of your chemicals. It may involve changes to existing controls and preventive measures that you need to be aware of.
- You can find more information regarding the changes to labels and SDS in the relevant Codes of Practice.

## Top tips

- Consumer products being used in the workplace do not need to be GHS ready if the product has its original label and is being used in a way that is similar to household use.
- There are no changes for the transportation of chemicals. The Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG Code) still applies.
- There are exceptions for labelling small containers where limited space is available to display information. See Chapter 7 of the WHS Regulation for more information.

Action Plan/Notes				

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