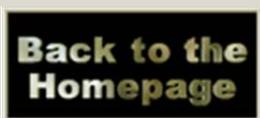


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Hazard Communication System Revisions Update

In the [Spring 2011 edition of Lab Notes](#), we discussed proposed changes to the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS), commonly known as the Worker Right-to-Know standard. Specifically, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was proposing to adopt major portions of an existing international hazard communication system known as the Globally Harmonized System (GHS). On March 26, 2012, OSHA formally modified the existing HCS making the standard consistent with the GHS. Major changes to the existing standard include:

Hazard Classification: Chemical manufacturers and importers are required to determine the hazards of the chemicals they produce or import. Hazard classification under the new, updated standard provides specific criteria to address health and physical hazards as well as classification of chemical mixtures.

Labels: Chemical manufacturers and importers must provide a label that includes a signal word, pictogram, hazard statement, and precautionary statement for each hazard class and category.

Safety Data Sheets: The new format requires 16 specific sections, ensuring consistency in presentation of important protection information.

Information and training: To facilitate understanding of the new system, the new standard requires that workers be trained by December 1, 2013 on the new label elements and safety data sheet format, in addition to the current training requirements.

Following are key compliance dates for the revised HCS:

Effective Completion Date	Requirement(s)	Who
December 1, 2013	Train employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet (SDS) format.	Employers
June 1, 2015* December 1, 2015	Compliance with all modified provisions of this final rule, except: The Distributor shall not ship containers labeled by the chemical manufacturer or importer unless it is a GHS label	Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers
June 1, 2016	Update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication program as necessary, and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards.	Employers
Transition Period to the effective completion dates noted above	May comply with either 29 CFR 1910.1200 (the final standard), or the current standard, or both	Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors, and employers

While the revised HCS does not supersede the OSHA Laboratory Standard, campus laboratory workers will need to become familiar with the revised standard as labeling and material safety data sheets (soon to be commonly known as Safety Data Sheets) will be affected.

Something new for those familiar previously with the HCS will be the use of the following hazard pictograms.

<p>Health Hazard</p>  <p>Carcinogen</p> <p>Mutagenicity</p> <p>Reproductive Toxicity</p> <p>Respiratory Sensitizer</p> <p>Target Organ Toxicity</p> <p>Aspiration Toxicity</p>	<p>Flame</p>  <p>Flammables</p> <p>Pyrophorics</p> <p>Self-Heating</p> <p>Emits Flammable Gas</p> <p>Self-Reactives</p> <p>Organic Peroxides</p>	<p>Exclamation Mark</p>  <p>Irritant (skin and eye)</p> <p>Skin Sensitizer</p> <p>Acute Toxicity</p> <p>Narcotic Effects</p> <p>Respiratory Tract Irritant</p> <p>Hazardous to Ozone Layer (Non-Mandatory)</p>
<p>Gas Cylinder</p>  <p>Gases Under Pressure</p>	<p>Corrosion</p>  <p>Skin Corrosion/Burns</p> <p>Eye Damage</p> <p>Corrosive to Metals</p>	<p>Exploding Bomb</p>  <p>Explosives</p> <p>Self-Reactives</p> <p>Organic Peroxides</p>
<p>Flame Over Circle</p>  <p>Oxidizers</p>	<p>Environment (Non-Mandatory)</p>  <p>Aquatic Toxicity</p>	<p>Skull and Crossbones</p>  <p>Acute Toxicity (fatal or toxic)</p>

An excellent resource on the revised HCS can be found at this link: <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>

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"Don't Learn Laboratory Safety by Accident!"