

The GHS in brief

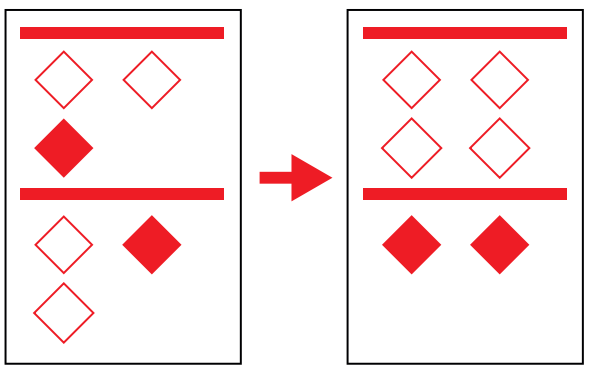
Globally Harmonised System

What is the GHS?
The Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is an internationally agreed system for classifying and labelling hazardous chemicals

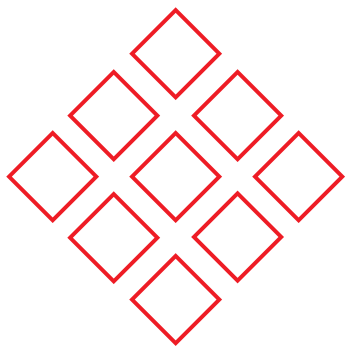
Why do we need it?
The GHS will reduce time and costs, remove barriers to trade, and protect people and the environment from chemical hazards



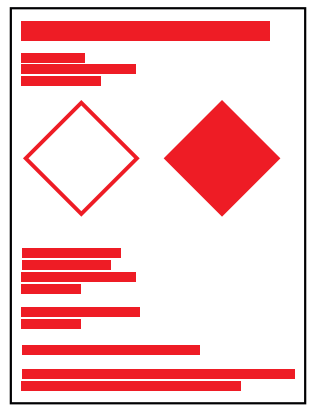
Who does it affect?
If you are a manufacturer, importer, seller or user of hazardous chemicals, you need to take action on changes to labelling and classification



What are the changes?
The changes affect the way chemicals are classified and how information is communicated



Pictograms
The GHS uses nine standard symbols with one of two word signal statements – danger or warning



Labels
Changes to labels include simpler hazard and precautionary statements



Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
The SDS uses clear language under 16 universal headings



Transition period
must be GHS compliant by 31 December 2016



Other countries
Some of our largest trading partners have adopted the GHS, making trade easier between us



In Australia
Australia began transitioning in 2012 after adopting the GHS Third Edition



What do I need to do?
Make sure all your chemicals are classified under GHS and you have a new or updated SDS



Who do I contact?
safeworkaustralia.gov.au

safe work australia