

Overview of GHS legislation in South Africa

Directorate Occupational Health and Hygiene

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employment & labour

Department:
Employment and Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Chief Directorate OHS

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RHCA

- Regulations for Hazardous Chemical Substances 1995, under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 85 of 1993.
- Promulgated March 2021

GHSystem

International voluntary system


2 years



HCA Classification



The manufacturer or importer of a chemical agent must, before it is supplied to a workplace—

- determine whether the chemical agent is an HCA by carrying out a hazard assessment referencing the Building blocks provided in Annexure 1;
 - if the substance, mixture or article is an HCA, ensure that a GHS classification is carried out for the HCA; and
 - review the GHS classification should a change in the composition of the HCA be made.
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Safety Data Sheets (1)

A safety data sheet for an HCA must be—

1) prepared by an importer or manufacturer before manufacture and, if this is not reasonably practicable, immediately after manufacture but before import: Provided that the safety data sheet is—

- GHS compliant;
- classified for the HCA, in accordance with regulation 14;
- reviewed at least once every five years;
- amended whenever necessary to ensure that it contains correct and current information, aligned to its GHS classification required by regulation 14(c), which includes new data regarding the hazard presented by an HCA that changes its classification in a category or subcategory of a hazard class or results in its classification to another hazard class; and
- given the most recent applicable date, which may be the date of first issue, review or amendment;

Safety Data Sheets (2)



2) provided by a manufacturer or importer to—

- a supplier of the HCA to a workplace; and
- any person who is likely to be affected by the HCA;



3) provided by a supplier of the HCA—

- when the HCA is first supplied to the workplace;
- if the SDS for the HCA is amended; and
- to any person at the workplace if they request the SDS; and

Safety Data Sheets (3)




4) obtained by the employer from the manufacturer, importer or supplier of the HCA and provided to—

- any person who is involved in using, handling, or likely to be exposed to, the HCA at the workplace;
 - any person at the workplace who needs the information to assess risk related to health and safety;
 - any health practitioner who needs the information to treat a person who has been exposed to the HCA; or
 - an emergency service professional who requires the information to fulfil his or her duties as an emergency respondent.
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Safety Data Sheets (4)



The information in the GHS compliant safety data sheet must be presented using the following 16 headings in the order given below, as may be updated from time to time:

- Section 1: identification of the substance/mixture and of the company/undertaking;
 - Section 2: hazards identification;
 - Section 3: composition/information on ingredients;
 - Section 4: first-aid measures;
 - Section 5: firefighting measures;
 - Section 6: accidental release measure;
 - Section 7: handling and storage;
 - Section 8: exposure controls/personal protection;
- 



Safety Data Sheets (4)

- Section 9: physical and chemical properties;
- Section 10: stability and reactivity;
- Section 11: toxicological information;
- Section 12: ecological information;
- Section 13: disposal considerations;
- Section 14: transport information;
- Section 15: regulatory information; and
- Section 16: other information.

HCA Labelling elements



An HCA is correctly labelled if the selection and use of label elements are in accordance with the GHS—

- the product identifier and, where applicable, the United Nations proper shipping name;
 - the chemical identity of all the ingredients contributing to the final GHS classification of the HCA;
 - the name, address, and business telephone number of the manufacturer or importer;
 - an emergency telephone number where support is available; and
 - a signal word, hazard statement, precautionary statement and hazard pictogram consistent with the HCA's GHS classification.
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HCA Labelling elements

Pictogram



Signal Word

Danger
Warning

Hazard
Statement

H ###

Precautionary
Statement

P ###

Hazards

- Health Hazards
- Physical Hazards
- Environmental Hazards *as guide*



GHS Building blocks

ANNEXURE 1

Table 1: GHS HAZARD CLASSES¹ – PHYSICAL HAZARDS

HAZARD CLASSES	CATEGORIES/DIVISIONS/TYPES							
Flammable gases	Cat 1A & B	Cat 2						
Aerosols, flammable and non-flammable	Cat 1	Cat 2						
Oxidising gases	Cat 1							
Gases under pressure								
Compressed gas	Cat 1							
Liquefied gas	Cat 1							
Refrigerated liquefied gas	Cat 1							
Dissolved gas	Cat 1							
Flammable liquids	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3					
Flammable solids	Cat 1	Cat 2						
Self-reactive substances and mixtures	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Type F		
Pyrophoric liquids	Cat 1							
Pyrophoric solids	Cat 1							
Self-heating substances and mixtures, Substance and mixtures which, in water, emit flammable gases	Cat 1	Cat 2						
	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3					
Oxidising liquids	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3					
Oxidising solids	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3					
Organic peroxides	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Type F		
Corrosive to metals	Cat 1							

Table 2: GHS HAZARD CLASSES² – HEALTH HAZARDS

HAZARD CLASSES	CATEGORIES				
Acute toxicity					
Oral	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4	
Dermal	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4	
Inhalation	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4	
Skin corrosion/irritation	Cat 1, 1A, B & C ^a	Cat 2			
Serious eye damage/eye irritation	Cat 1	Cat 2/ 2A			
Respiratory sensitizer	Cat 1	Cat 1A ^a	Cat 1B ^a		
Skin sensitizer	Cat 1	Cat 1A ^a	Cat 1B ^a		
Germ cell mutagenicity	Cat 1, 1A & B	Cat 2			
Carcinogenicity	Cat 1, 1A & B	Cat 2			
Reproductive toxicity	Cat 1A & B	Cat 2	Lactation		
Specific target organ toxicity - single exposure	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3		
Specific target organ toxicity - repeated exposure	Cat 1	Cat 2			
Aspiration hazard	Cat 1	Cat2			

Table 3: GHS HAZARD CLASSES – ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

HAZARD CLASSES	CATEGORIES				
Hazardous to the aquatic environment short-term (Acute)	Acute 1				
Hazardous to the aquatic environment long-term (Chronic)	Chronic 1	Chronic 2			
Hazard to the ozone layer	Cat 1				

Note: the hazard classes and categories provided in Table 3 for environmental hazards are intended as references and a guideline for the classification of chemicals.

PICTOGRAMS

- Physical Hazards

1. Explosive
2. Flammable
3. Oxidiser
4. Decomposing
5. Gas under pressure
6. Corrosive to metals



PICTOGRAMS

Environmental Hazards



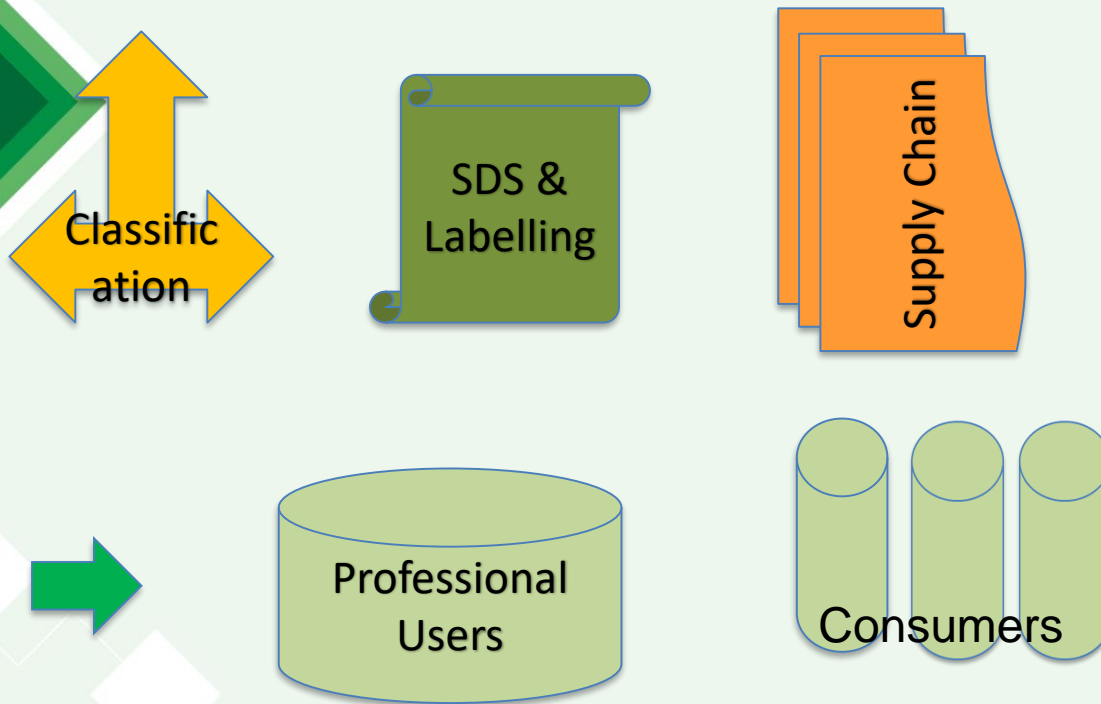
PICTOGRAMS

- Health Hazards



Summary

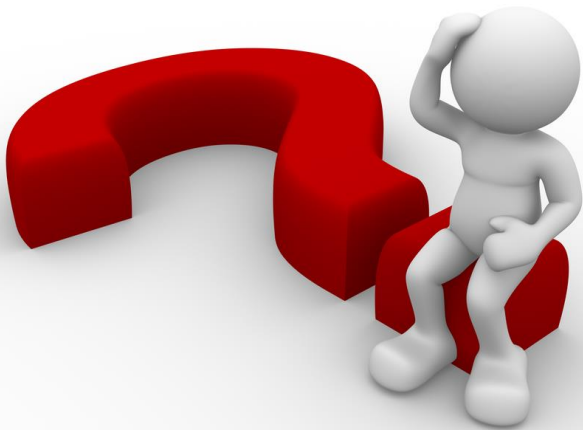
Flow of product information



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Thank You...



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