Global Harmonization System (GHS) for Chemical Labelling SmartForm

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

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Introduction

Responding for

Please select your economy *

Australia

How are you responding *

- [x] General Information
- [x] As a Regulator for the Industrial Workplace Chemicals Sector
- [x] As a Regulator for the Consumer Products Sector
- [x] As a Regulator for the Agricultural Chemicals Sectior
- [x] From Industry for the Industrial Workplace Chemicals Sector
- [x] From Industry for the Consumer Products Sector
- [x] From Industry for the Agricultural Chemicals Sector

Respondent details

Organisation/Agency

Department of Industry, Innovation & Science

Name

Dr Craig Johnston

Phone number

02 2613 7350

Email address

Craig.Johnson@industry.gov.au

Have you completed a GHS implementation status report in previous years? *

(●) Yes ( ) No

Please provide the year when the last report was completed *

2015

Has there been any changes to the GHS implementation status in your economy since completing the last GHS implementation Status report? *

(●) Yes

( ) No

General Information

General Information

Has your economy implemented GHS for any chemical sector to date?

(●) Yes

( ) No

Is there an overall strategic plan for GHS implementation?

( ) Yes

(●) No

Do you have a GHS co-ordinator to facilitate implementation within your economy?

(●) Yes

( ) No

Please provide your co-ordinators details

Organisation/Agency

Safe Work Australia

Name

Phone number

+61 2 6121 5317

Email address

info@safeworkaustralia.gov.au

Website

www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au

Do you have a hazard classification database?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Is this database mandatory?

- ( ) Mandatory classification
- (●) Information only

How do you access the database?

As GHS is implemented through workplace regulations, the database is for information only.

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Regulator Input - IWCS

Industrial Workplace Chemicals Sector

Does your agency or organisation have responsibility for GHS implementation for this sector? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please provide the following details

Lead Government Agency

Safe Work Australia

Contact Person

Dr Paul Taylor

Phone number

+61 2 6240 6888

Email address

paul.taylor@swa.gov.au

Website

www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au

Has GHS been implemented for this sector? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Which edition of GHS is/was implemented?

Revised Edition 3 (2009)

When is/was GHS fully operational for this sector?

The GHS will be implemented for all chemicals used in workplaces through hazardous chemical regulations under the Work, Health and Safety Act in each jurisdiction in Australia. There is a phased introduction over five years from 2012 introduction.
As at 1 January 2016, six out of the nine jurisdictions(including the Commonwealth) have implemented the new WHS laws incorporating the GHS for classification, labelling and SDS. The remaining 3 jurisdictions allow for the operation of GHS within existing regulations. The Model Health and Safety legislation on which all State legislation are to be based is finalised. Not all States have implemented the Model Work Health and Safety legislation.

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Have you finalised the relevant legislation to implement GHS?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please provide the access details to the documentation. E.g. Website link, contact phone number

http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/Legislation/Pages/ModelWHSLegislation.aspx

Do you intend to adopt all GHS hazard classification building blocks as written in the Purple Book?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

Please describe the building blocks that will be adopted

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Do you intend to adopt any non-GHS classification criteria? E.g. Classification of flammable/combustible liquids beyond 93° Celsius

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Will there be a risk assessment element overlayed on top of GHS classification on the label?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Is there a maximum number of Pictograms, Hazard Statements and Precautionary Statements included on the Safety Data Sheets (SDS)?

Pictograms

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Hazard Statements

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Precautionary Statements

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Is there a maximum number of Pictograms, Hazard Statements and Precautionary Statements included on the label?

Pictograms

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Hazard Statements

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Precautionary Statements

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

How is the hierarchy of Pictograms, Hazard Statements and Precautionary Statements defined?

Pictograms and Hazard statements are both required to be on a label for products used in workplaces. Precautionary statements may be selected by the manufacturer. guidance on labelling allows some precautionary statements to be omitted - recommends maximum 6PS. Other information (eg Risk-based advice for pesticides) may be present on the label in addition to workplace GHS requirements.

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Do you have any arrangements in place to deal with imported chemicals/products? E.g. Will you accept additional classification criteria (GHS or otherwise) not adopted by your economy?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

What are your arrangements to deal with imported chemicals/products?

Deem-to-comply" provisions. All jurisdictions prior to implementation of the harmonised WHS laws amended legislation to accept GHS classified and labelled chemicals. The new WHS laws also allow additional GHS classifications to be communicated on labels.

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Do you have training and awareness activities planned?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

What are your planned training and awareness activities?

Awareness and training materials are planned. Guidance on classification is available from the Safe Work Australia website. Other guidance to assist users understand labels and SDS is also available. Private contractors are available to provide GHS training to Australian business. Australia is supporting the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS and the OECD in developing a non-mandatory GHS classification list. Reference: http://hsis.safeworkaustralia.gov.au (GHS Information GHS Hazardous Chemical Information List)

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Are there any plans to exchange personnel with another economy to improve harmonisation of GHS implementation?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

Please list any specific issues of concern you have experienced so far during your GHS implementation efforts

Accommodating differing perspectives on chemical safety issues between industry, regulatory authorities and the general community.

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Do you have more information to supply that did not fit into the fields above?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

Regulator Input - CPS

Consumer Products Sector

Does your agency or organisation have responsibility for GHS implementation for this sector? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please provide the following details

Lead Government Agency

Therapeutic Goods Administration

Contact Person

Phone number

Email address

Website

Has GHS been implemented for this sector? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Which edition of GHS is/was being implemented?

Revised Edition 3 (2009)

When is/was GHS be fully operational for this sector?

Existing State/Territory Poisons Acts for poisons scheduling (health related classification and labelling) provide a suitable basis. Contacts for information and advice on legislation requirements can be found at http://www.tga.gov.au/industry/scheduling.htm. The Therapeutic Goods Act, 1989 and Regulations (Commonwealth) define poisons scheduling arrangements. The Act can be found via http://www.tga.gokv.au/Industry/scheduling-legislation.htm. Environmental elements may require a legislative basis.

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Have you finalised the relevant legislation to implement GHS?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please provide the access details to the documentation. E.g. Website link, contact phone number

http://wwwtga.gov.au/industry/scheduling-legislation.htm

Do you intend to adopt all GHS hazard classification building blocks as written in the Purple Book?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please indicate the cut-off points you will be adopting where the choice is given in the Purple Book. E.g. Sensitisers

Under consideration. However, it is desirable that there be integration with existing requirements so as to minimise disruption to existing classification arrangements.

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Do you intend to adopt any non-GHS classification criteria? E.g. Classification of flammable/combustible liquids beyond 93° Celsius

- ○ Yes
- ● No

Will there be a risk assessment element overlayed on top of GHS classification on the label?

- ● Yes
- ○ No

How will it work?

Risk assessment will be overlaid on top of GHS classification. Under the Therapeutic Goods Act, the Poisons Scheduling system requires a range of factors that must be considered in addition to the universal scale of toxicity. These include purpose of use, presentation and packaging, potential for abuse, safety in use, the need for specialist training or personal protective equiprment for safe or effective use, and the need for access to the substance. The scheduling policy framework can be found at http://www.tga.gov.au/pdf/scheduling-policy-framework.pdf. The Poisons Standard is available at: http://wwwtga.gov.au/industry/scheduling-poisons-standard.htm.

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Is there a maximum number of Pictograms, Hazard Statements and Precautionary Statements included on the Safety Data Sheets (SDS)?

Pictograms

- ○ Yes
- ● No

Hazard Statements

- ○ Yes
- ● No

Precautionary Statements

- ● Yes
- ○ No

How many?

Is there a maximum number of Pictograms, Hazard Statements and Precautionary Statements included on the label?

Pictograms

- ○ Yes
- ● No

Hazard Statements

- ● Yes
- ○ No

How many?

Precautionary Statements

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

How is the hierarchy of Pictograms, Hazard Statements and Precautionary Statements defined?

Pictograms are not favoured by Health authorities. The hierarchy of hazard statements not yet finalised. Precautionary statements to be added as necessary.

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Do you have any arrangements in place to deal with imported chemicals/products? E.g. Will you accept additional classification criteria (GHS or otherwise) not adopted by your economy?

- ○ Yes
- ● No

Do you have training and awareness activities planned?

- ● Yes
- ○ No

What are your planned training and awareness activities?

To be initiated prior to implementation.

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Are there any plans to exchange personnel with another economy to improve harmonisation of GHS implementation?

- ○ Yes
- ● No

Please list any specific issues of concern you have experienced so far during your GHS implementation efforts

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Do you have more information to supply that did not fit into the fields above?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Regulator Input - ACS

Agricultural Chemicals Sector

Does your agency or organisation have responsibility for GHS implementation for this sector? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Please provide the following details

Lead Government Agency

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

Contact Person

Phone number

Email address

Website

www.apvma.gov.au

Has GHS been implemented for this sector? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Do you intend to implement GHS for this sector in the next 2 years? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Which edition of GHS is/was being implemented?

Revised Edition 3 (2009)

When is/was GHS be fully operational for this sector?

GHS is partially implemented by default through implementation of GHS for workplace chemicals applying to agricultural chemicals in Australia. The timeline

to add GHS hazard and precautionary statement on agricultural chemical labels will follow GHS implementation for workplace chemicals. Safe Work Australia, the agency responsible for implementing GHS for workplace chemicals, is also responsible for implementing some labelling elements of GHS (hazard and precautionary statements only) for agricultural products. For agricultural chemical product labels that were assessed since the APVMA labelling reform in 2011, WHS laws require the registrant to add GHS labelling elements to produce label.

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Have you finalised the relevant legislation to implement GHS?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please provide the access details to the documentation. E.g. Website link, contact phone number

Do you intend to adopt all GHS hazard classification building blocks as written in the Purple Book?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

Please describe the building blocks that will be adopted

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Do you intend to adopt any non-GHS classification criteria? E.g. Classification of flammable/combustible liquids beyond 93° Celsius

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

Will there be a risk assessment element overlayed on top of GHS classification on the label?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

How will it work?

GHS information and risk assessment elements will be completely separate. Both sets of information will appear on the label. The APVMA undertakes a risk assessment for all agvet chemicals and must be satisfied that the label contains adequate instructions for safe and effective use before they are registered. The registration/authorisation is for specific uses set out on the label. The instructions for use, relevant hazard information and various other label content required by agvet chemical legislation (referred to as "relevant label particulars") are approved by the APVMA as an outcome of the risk assessment. GHS labelling elements are additional to, and independent of, the relevant label particulars approved by the APVMA, and are added by the manufacturer following their self-assessment against the GHS criteria to meet the requirements of the new WHS legislation for workplace chemicals, described above.

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Is there a maximum number of Pictograms, Hazard Statements and Precautionary Statements included on the Safety Data Sheets (SDS)?

Pictograms

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

Hazard Statements

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Precautionary Statements

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Is there a maximum number of Pictograms, Hazard Statements and Precautionary Statements included on the label?

Pictograms

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Hazard Statements

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Precautionary Statements

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

How is the hierarchy of Pictograms, Hazard Statements and Precautionary Statements defined?

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Do you have any arrangements in place to deal with imported chemicals/products? E.g. Will you accept additional classification criteria (GHS or otherwise) not adopted by your economy?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

What are your arrangements to deal with imported chemicals/products?

All imported agvet chemicals must be assessed and registered by the APVMA.

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Do you have training and awareness activities planned?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Are there any plans to exchange personnel with another economy to improve harmonisation of GHS implementation?

○ Yes

◉ No

Please list any specific issues of concern you have experienced so far during your GHS implementation efforts

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Do you have more information to supply that did not fit into the fields above?

○ Yes

◉ No

Industry Input - IWCS

Industrial Workplace Chemicals Sector

This section is for any industry associates who may wish to comment regarding the GHS implementation process.

Has it been easy to access all necessary information regarding GHS compliance?

Access to necessary information has been inconsistent and patchy. Information on GHS requirements are broadly available but can be difficult to navigate and interpret. While some sectors of industry are managing the transition well, others are struggling with ambiguities and lack of clear interpretation provided by government.

For example, the Australian government has provided a draft, non-mandatory classification list for chemicals based on the classification list in the EU CLP Regulations. However, unlike the EU CLP, the Australian list does not contain the mixture cut-off levels for the classified substances, which has caused some confusion as to whether the cut-off levels used in the EU CLP is acceptable or whether the cut-offs in the GHS text should be used as a default.

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Are there specific issues that are limiting the progress of GHS implementation?

Some sectors of industry are expressing concern with the final transition date – especially sectors with complex mixtures, while other participants have well developed and coordinated transition plans.

As all mixtures as well as single substances must comply with GHS by 31 December 2016 this is likely to be difficult for formulators and product manufacturers that are depending on GHS classification information from their upstream suppliers.

There is still need for more training and awareness as well as common understanding of requirements between the regulators and regulated entities.

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What are/were the expected costs for industry in the GHS implementation?

• Training for awareness and new procedures (for industry, users and cosumers)
• Classification of chemicals/mixtures
• Preparation of GHS safety data sheets and labels
• Management of GHS and non-GHS labels and safety data sheets during transition; including customer inquiries and education
• Increased products (mixtures) being classified as hazardous, resulting in more products requiring special storage licensing e.g. corrosives.

439 of 1000 characters

If your economy has implemented GHS, is there any difference in expected cost prior to implementation and actual cost post-implementation of GHS?

While we are yet to fully implement GHS, some industry sectors believe that there will be additional cost for storage of products that are now classified as hazardous (were previously not classified as hazardous).

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What are/were the expected benefits for industry through the GHS implementation?

A key question remains as to whether GHS will facilitate trade and reduce transaction costs. Large multi-national enterprises expect that GHS could deliver benefits in managing chemical trade, but differences in implementation (between economies and between regulatory schemes within economies) diminish this opportunity.

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If your economy has implemented GHS, is there a difference in expected benefits prior to implementation and actual benefits post-implementation of GHS?

As we are currently in the implementation phase, we are yet to understand the full benefits of GHS implementation.

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Organisation/Agency

Accord Australasia

Name

Catherine Oh

Phone number

+61 2 9281 2322

Email address

coh@accord.asn.au

Do you have more information to supply that did not fit into the fields above?

○ Yes

◉ No

Industry Input - CPS

Consumer Products Sector

This section is for any industry associates who may wish to comment regarding the GHS implementation process.

Has it been easy to access all necessary information regarding GHS compliance?

Yes, so far. The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) has been active in consultation with industry. DoHA's consideration of different options for the adoption of GHS for the consumer products sector, including the preferred option for adoption is publicly available.

http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/7FE108F56018FC1DCA2575910011D11E/$File/GHS%20Discussion%20Paper_Final%20Draft%20for%20Approval_16%20March%202009.pdf.

However, this consideration was done many years ago, and there has been no discussion on GHS since then. It is our understanding that GHS will not be implemented for consumer products sector and risk based regulations will continue to be applied.

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Are there specific issues that are limiting the progress of GHS implementation?

No. There is some confusion due to perceived overlaps in regulatory controls. Some consumer products are regulated as medicines (e.g. some toothpastes, mouthwashes and sunscreen) under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (Cth) and some as agvet chemicals (e.g. household pesticides and herbicides) under the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994.

In some sections of the Work Health and Safety legislation which implements GHS for workplace chemicals, all consumer products are excluded from workplace chemical labeling requirements if they are used in a manner that is consistent with normal consumer use. In other sections it is stated that all agvet chemicals and some therapeutic goods must include some workplace labeling elements.

Industry has attempted work through this inconsistency at the drafting stage of workplace chemicals legislation with some success, but unfortunately ambiguity still remains.

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What are/were the expected costs for industry in the GHS implementation?

The current proposal by DoHA will help to minimize the cost to industry by providing expert risk assessment, and little change is expected for substances that have already gone through risk assessment. However, no work has progressed by DoHA since the initial proposal in 2009.

The implementation of GHS in this sector (as per the DoHA preferred option in its consultation document) is not expected to have a significant impact on industry. We expect that regulators will witness more changes, as they move to GHS hazard classification system to perform their risk assessment. There are some changes expected in control of some consumer products since GHS hazard classification appears more conservative than the current system, particularly for mixtures.

Long transition period and consistent and transparent communication on the new requirements from governments as they are developed will also help to reduce the cost for industry in implementing of GHS.

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If your economy has implemented GHS, is there any difference in expected cost prior to implementation and actual cost post-implementation of GHS?

0 of 1000 characters

What are/were the expected benefits for industry through the GHS implementation?

Very little benefit is expected through the implementation of GHS. Australian consumer product regulations currently provide good public health and safety outcomes.

Implementation of GHS classification criteria is accepted as necessary since all classification of downstream chemicals including consumer products will depend on the classification of upstream chemicals. The workplace chemicals sector, which includes all manufacturing sectors, has already begun implementation of GHS in some Australian States and Territories.

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If your economy has implemented GHS, is there a difference in expected benefits prior to implementation and actual benefits post-implementation of GHS?

0 of 1000 characters

Organisation/Agency

Accord Australasia

Name

Catherine Oh

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coh@accord.asn.au

Do you have more information to supply that did not fit into the fields above?

○ Yes

◉ No

Industry Input - ACS

Agricultural Chemicals Sector

This section is for any industry associates who may wish to comment regarding the GHS implementation process.

Has it been easy to access all necessary information regarding GHS compliance?

Information regarding hazard and precautionary statements required by workplace regulators is available, but is difficult to find for agricultural chemical registrants as it is not available from the APVMA. Conflicting requirements from risk-based APVMA approved label particulars and GHS hazard-based workplace requirements are creating confusion among product registrants.

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Are there specific issues that are limiting the progress of GHS implementation?

Two separate regulators have imposed differing regulatory standards on agricultural chemicals used in the workplace. This will make compliance by product registrants difficult and risks providing users with inaccurate, confusing and contradictory information about the hazards and risks associated with the product. APVMA has stated that it will not be assessing hazard and precautionary statements required by workplace regulators.

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What are/were the expected costs for industry in the GHS implementation?

Direct costs include regulatory costs associated with updating all product labels to meet workplace labeling requirements. This will also involve regulatory approval for revised label statements. These costs have been estimated to be $60.5m during the transitional phase.

Indirect costs include:
• Recertification of distribution, transport and retail supply chains in accordance with existing stewardship arrangements; and
• Retraining existing users so that they may understand how to use new information included on labels.

Costs of additional training are estimated to be $50m. Total costs of GHS implementation in this sector is expected to exceed $110m. This does not include opportunity costs from delaying or precluding the introduction of new crop protection technologies.

Additional costs may also be incurred through creating labels with excessive numbers of hazard and precautionary statements that result in user confusion and consequently poorer risk management decision.

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If your economy has implemented GHS, is there any difference in expected cost prior to implementation and actual cost post-implementation of GHS?

0 of 1000 characters

What are/were the expected benefits for industry through the GHS implementation?

Australia has a well-developed and rigorous risk-based system for labeling agricultural chemicals administered by the APVMA. This is supported by existing requirements for all workplaces to have Safety Data Sheets for all hazardous chemicals in that workplace.

The APVMA's labeling system includes requiring hazard information that is relevant to the use of the product. Under APVMA arrangements, some hazard information can be excluded from labels where that hazard does not give rise to anything more than a negligible risk to workers and other users. This is consistent with FAO and WHO best practice guidance with respect to agricultural chemical products.
Extending hazard information on labels (which is already required to be kept on workplace SDSs) is not expected to provide any human health or workplace safety benefits. In fact, there is a real risk that additional complexity and confusing labels may result in poorer chemical risk management.

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If your economy has implemented GHS, is there a difference in expected benefits prior to implementation and actual benefits post-implementation of GHS?

0 of 1000 characters

Organisation/Agency

Accord Australasia

Name

Catherine Oh

Phone number

+61 2 9281 2322

Email address

coh@accord.asn.au

Do you have more information to supply that did not fit into the fields above?

○ Yes

◉ No