Manufacturer & Distributor Responsibilities

Chemical manufacturers and distributors do the heavy lifting when it comes to GHS adoption. For each of their chemicals sent to downstream users they must:

- Gather relevant chemical data
- Review data to determine hazards
- Classify/categorize hazards using GHS/OSHA criteria
- Use bridging principles to determine hazards for mixtures if needed
- Produce/Author/Re-author safety data sheets and labels in GHS format
- Ensure SDSs and labels address specific standards of each country to which they ship (even GHS adoption differs region to region)

Employer Responsibilities

Employers can make the transition to GHS compliance less painful by following these key steps:

- Designate a GHS transition leader
- Inventory chemicals/Update safety data sheet library
- Train employees on GHS formatted labels and SDSs
- Track new GHS labels and SDSs entering facility
- Plan for entire library to be updated
- Get a GHS compliant secondary container labeling strategy

2012

2013

December 1, 2013 - Deadline

Train emloyees on GHS formatting

As next deadline approaches, be sure to record your progress, especially on employee training.

- Compare old safety data sheets to new ones
- Note any new hazards on SDSs requiring new employee training
- Secure missing safety data sheets/Archive older versions
- Update written HazCom program
- Re-label secondary containers (if necessary) in GHS format
- Train employees on new hazards
- Meet SARA/EPCRA reporting obligations
- Stay current on GHS going forward

2014

2015

June 1, 2015 - Deadline

Manufacturers/Distributors Reclassify chemicals, send SDSs & labels in GHS format

December 1, 2015 - Deadline

Distributors send only updated SDSs & labels

2016

"MSDS Authoring Services is a premier writer of MSDS data sheets and other MSDS services which abide by current MSDS standards."

June. 1, 2016 - Deadline

Employer full compliance