

Final Rule Modifying the HCS to Maintain Alignment with the GHS

OSHA has updated its Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to primarily align with Revision 7 of the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). The final rule was published on May 20, 2024, with an effective date of July 19, 2024.

The final rule updates the criteria for several health and physical hazard classes to provide better information to employees. It also contains revised provisions for labeling small containers and the relabeling of chemicals that have been released for shipment; amendments

They include updated hazard classes and categories, improved readability of the required information on the label, and additional guidance for hazard classification, including the use of alternative test methods. Similar to our major trading partners such as the European Union and Canada, OSHA is primarily aligning with Revision 7 of the GHS. This final rule also addresses implementation issues arising since 2012 and better coordinates with other federal agencies' requirements (e.g., EPA, DOT).

OSHA's major changes to the HCS

Hazard classification

- Health Hazards (Appendix A)
 - Updated skin corrosion/irritation and serious eye damage/eye irritation chapters

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36 months after effective date		