Catholic Safety Health & Welfare SA

Legislative Change Reminder

GHS 7 Classification of Hazardous Chemicals

Just a reminder GHS 7 Classification of Hazardous Chemicals transition period has finished.

Summary of what to do

- Only accept Hazardous Chemicals manufactured, classified, and labelled under GHS 7 if they are manufactured or imported after 1st January 2023.
- Hazardous Chemicals manufactured or imported prior to 1st of January 2023 can be GHS 3 or GHS 7 classified / labelled but must have the GHS 7 Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- If you have any queries, contact your CSHWSA WHS Consultant.

Information

The reason for the transition

Since 1 January 2017, we have used the 3rd revised edition of the GHS (GHS 3) to classify and label hazardous chemicals in Australia. We have now changed from GHS 3 to GHS7.

Moving to GHS 7 in Australia has:

- matched our key trading partners, who are also moving to GHS 7
- make sure classifications, labels and *SDS* use the more up-to-date classifications and hazard communication.

Transition finished

The two-year transition to GHS 7 began on 1 January 2021 finished on 31 December 2022, giving manufacturers and importers time to implement the updated system.

From 1 January 2023, only GHS 7 can be used to classify and label chemicals in Australia.

Changes

Manufacturers and importers of hazardous chemicals

Manufacturer or importer of hazardous chemicals must only use GHS 7 to label and make SDS from 1 January 2023.

Suppliers of hazardous chemicals

Supplier of hazardous chemicals, should only accept stock which is classified, labelled, and has a SDS prepared under GHS 7 from 1 January 2023.

Users of hazardous chemicals

If you use hazardous chemicals, you should only accept new stock that is manufactured, classified, and labelled under GHS 7 if they are manufactured or imported after 1 January 2023.

If the hazardous chemical is manufactured or imported before 1 January 2023, the product can be classified and labelled with either GHS 3 or GHS 7. This is the case even if you receive the product after 1 January 2023. SDS should be compliant with GHS 7 from 1 January 2023 even if the label does not.

Changes under GHS 7 classification

Aerosols

The 'flammable aerosols' hazard class is now called 'aerosols.

Category 3 is a new hazard category for non-flammable aerosols.

Classification and labelling for Categories 1 and 2 aerosols ('flammable aerosols' under GHS 3) have not changed.

Flammable, pyrophoric and chemically unstable gases

Flammable Gas Category 1 is now split into Flammable Gas Category 1A and Flammable Gas Category 1B.

Flammable Gas Category 2 has not changed and is not used in Australia.

There are 3 new flammable gas categories under Flammable Gas Category 1A:

- Pyrophoric Gas – a flammable gas that is liable to ignite spontaneously in air at a temperature of 54°C or below.
- Chemically Unstable Gas A and Chemically Unstable Gas B – a flammable gas able to react explosively in the absence air or oxygen.

Desensitised explosives

GHS 7 has a new hazard class for desensitised explosives.

Desensitised explosives are solid or liquid explosive substances or mixtures which have had a substance added to make it safer to handle and transport.

Desensitised explosive substances or mixtures can be:

- diluted or wetted with water, alcohols, or other substances to form a homogenous solid mixture
- dissolved or suspended in water or other liquids substances to form a homogenous liquid mixture.

Eye irritation

The definition of hazardous chemicals in the model Work Health and Safety laws has been updated to include both Category 2A and Category 2B eye irritants.

Using Category 2A or 2B subcategories is optional in Australia. For example, you can class Category 2B eye irritants as either Category 2 or Category 2B eye irritants.

Changes to using precautionary statements

Under GHS7 many precautionary statements are now easier to read.

Precautionary statements can be combined, and the wording changed if it does not change the safety message of the statements.