

Global Harmonisation System (GHS)



What is Global harmonisation?

The rest of the World's answer to the Eurovision Song Contest? A rather large group hug? No - Global harmonisation is an internationally agreed –upon system created by the United Nations for the classification and labelling of Chemicals. This will enable consistent classification and labelling criteria at a global level. Australia has set January 1, 2017 for the mandatory GHS implementation deadline though it has been used in Australia in various places for a while.

How does this affect you? Positively – information will be uniform.

We will move from using material safety data sheets (MSDS) to safety data sheets (SDS.) The difference between the two is that MSDS come in multiple formats and SDS only come in one format. This format consists of a specific order and set of headlines, creating a much simpler and effective way to communicate the hazards of a chemical. The information is set out under Sections for example:

- **Section 1**, Product identifier, manufacturer or distributor name, address, phone number, emergency phone number, recommended use, restrictions on use.
- **Section 2**, Hazard identification, label requirements
- **Section 3**, Composition/information on chemical ingredients
- **Section 4**, First Aid measures



The new symbols In addition new hazard symbols will be used. Here are a few examples:

