

RCC Occupational Safety Issues Working Group: Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (workplace hazards) Work Plan

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Description:

The Working Group on the GHS for Workplace Chemicals has been established to align and synchronize implementation of common classification and labelling requirements for workplace hazardous chemicals within the mandate of the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Health Canada through:

- a. Making compatible their respective standards-related measures related to the implementation of the GHS and future developments in the GHS to the greatest extent practicable, without reducing the level of safety or of protection to workers recognizing their respective regulatory processes, and
- b. Enhancing and strengthening the sharing and exchange of regulatory information between the parties related to the implementation of the GHS and future developments of the GHS with respect to workplace chemicals to reduce systematic barriers between the systems responsible for occupational safety and health of workplace chemicals.

The Working Group will meet annually.

The Task Team on the GHS for Workplace Chemicals will provide the technical support for the Working Group activities. The Task Team will meet biannually in conjunction with the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS.

Stakeholders will be engaged by each party twice a year as part of the preparations for the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS to align our policies and strengthen North America’s influence in multilateral fora.

Timelines:

Deliverable outcome	Action Item 1: Establish mechanism to coordinate the implementation of the GHS and any future updates to the GHS in our respective jurisdictions.	Action Item 2: As part of the permanent mechanism, set up a process for stakeholder input on the RCC GHS initiatives.	Action Item 3: Coordinate technical interpretations related to GHS implementation for Workplace Chemicals	Action Item 4: Implement the GHS for Workplace Chemicals
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<p>Three to six months</p>	<p>Develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designed to provide a permanent mechanism to coordinate future GHS implementation and interpretations between HECS and OSHA to include joint standard setting, work sharing, including compliance and enforcement and mutual recognition work.</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders on proposed permanent mechanism.</p>	<p>Set-up mechanism for stakeholders to provide ongoing input to HECS and OSHA on GHS issues through written comments and public meetings, including meetings/consultations prior to United Nations GHS meetings so approaches are aligned going into the international committees that develop GHS.</p> <p>Stakeholder public meeting</p>		<p>OSHA: Release of OSHA Final Rule for GHS Implementation for Workplace Chemicals</p> <p>HECS: Commence consultation of proposed legislative amendments</p>
<p>Six to 12 months</p>	<p>Finalize, signed and implemented MOU between HECS and OSHA</p>		<p>Development of joint/common GHS educational materials on classification issues</p>	
<p>12 to 18 months</p>		<p>Stakeholder public meeting.</p>	<p>Ongoing development of joint/common GHS educational material.</p>	<p>HECS: Expected release of Canada Gazette Part I, proposed regulations to implement the GHS for Workplace Chemicals.</p> <p>Tabling of legislative amendments.</p>
<p>Beyond 18 months</p>	<p>MOU in place.</p>	<p>Yearly stakeholder meetings</p>		<p>HECS: Expected release of Canada Gazette Part II, proposed regulations to implement the GHS for Workplace Chemicals. (January 2014)</p> <p>Amendment of <i>Hazardous Products Act</i> and Coming Into Force</p>

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