

New Chemical Safety Training Requirement
Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for Chemical Labeling and Communication

Dear Colleagues:

Washington State has now implemented the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) adoption of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). As a result, the UW needs to provide training to staff and update some of our systems for labeling and documenting chemicals. This email is a summary of the changes required by this regulation.

1. Training

All UW personnel who work with hazardous chemicals are required to complete a one-time online or in-person classroom training on this new system by June 1, 2014. This training is not required for *consumer* use of chemical products, such as toner and white out.

Facilities Services, University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC), and Harborview Medical Center (HMC) are providing tailored training to meet this requirement; the Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) Department is offering training for all other UW organizations.

EH&S offers both an online GHS course (25 minutes) and in-person classroom course (40 minutes); the course is titled GHS-Globally Harmonized System (HazCom). You can access the online course or register for an in-person GHS class on the [EH&S training website](#).

2. Changes to Chemical Classification and Labeling

The GHS system requires the following changes:

- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) will be replaced by standardized 16-section Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)
- Pictograms will be used to depict chemical hazards
- Chemicals received from manufacturers will have different labels
- Information on SDSs and labels will be standardized based on the product's hazard classifications
- The EH&S website, Laboratory Safety Manual, MyChem, and other website information will be revised to incorporate the new GHS changes

The [EH&S Laboratory Entry Caution Signs](#), HMIS posters, and NFPA fire diamond are not affected by this change because they are not under the authority of OSHA. There are also no changes to the requirements for labeling of secondary chemical containers.

3. Supervisors, Managers, and Principal Investigators (PIs)

If you supervise employees who work with or have a reasonably anticipated exposure to hazardous chemicals in laboratory settings, machine shops, food service locations, and all other locations where hazardous chemicals are used, you can do the following things to help ensure our compliance with the new regulation:

- Ensure all personnel handling hazardous chemicals (including volunteers and student employees) take the online training or attend the classroom training one time prior to June 1, 2014.
- When you receive new SDSs from the manufacturer, upload them into the UW Chemical Inventory System, MyChem, if they are not already in the MyChem system.
- When providing chemical-specific safety training to staff, incorporate the hazard information provided in the new SDSs.
- Update site-specific or laboratory-specific Chemical Safety Programs (Hazard Communication or Chemical Hygiene Programs in labs) as needed to incorporate GHS labeling and SDS language.

Please forward this message and attached flyer to your departments and units. A list of additional resources for chemicals is at the end of this email. If you have questions or need assistance, contact the EH&S Chemical and Occupational Safety Manager or Chemical Hygiene Officer at 206.543.7388 or uwcho@uw.edu.

Thank you,



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Additional Resources for Chemicals

- OSHA Pictogram and SDS Quick Cards: <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghsquickcards.html>
- UW Chemical Hazard Communication Program: <http://www.ehs.washington.edu/ohshazcom/>
- UW Laboratory Safety Manual: <http://www.ehs.washington.edu/manuals/lsm/index.shtm>
- UW MyChem Chemical Inventory System: <http://www.ehs.washington.edu/epomychem/index.shtm>
- Chemical Hazard Communication, WA Rule WAC 296-901:
<http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha/rules/901/default.asp>
- Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories, WA Rule, WAC 296-828:
<http://www.lni.wa.gov/WISHA/Rules/labs/default.htm>