



**Date:** 4/12/2013  
**To:** Betco® Sales; Customer Service; Marketing  
**From:** Barry Rosenthal; Manager, Technical Services  
**Subject:** GHS Implementation FAQ

---

**Modification of the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to conform with the United Nations' (UN) Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)**

**Why did OSHA decide to modify the Hazard Communication Standard to adopt the GHS?**

OSHA has modified the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) to adopt the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) to improve safety and health of workers throughout the world with more effective communications on chemical hazards.

**What is the Globally Harmonized System?**

GHS is an international approach to hazard communication, providing agreed criteria for classification of chemical hazards, and a standardized approach to label elements and safety data sheets. This system provides harmonized classification criteria for health, physical, and environmental hazards of chemicals. It also includes standardized label elements that are assigned to these hazard classes and categories, and provide the appropriate signal words, pictograms, and hazard and precautionary statements to convey the hazards to users. A standardized 16 section safety data sheet format will be required.

**What is the phase-in period in the revised Hazard Communication Standard?**

The table below summarizes the phase-in dates required under the revised Hazard Communication Standard (HCS):

<b>Effective Completion Date</b>	<b>Requirement(s)</b>	<b>Who</b>
<b>December 1, 2013</b>	Train employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet (SDS) format.	Employers
<b>June 1, 2015</b>	Compliance with all modified provisions of this final rule, except:	Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers
<b>December 1, 2015</b>	The Distributor shall not ship containers labeled by the chemical manufacturer or importer unless it is a GHS label	



<b>June 1, 2016</b>	Update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication program as necessary, and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards.	Employers
<b>Transition Period to the effective completion dates noted above</b>	May comply with either 29 CFR 1910.1200 (the final standard), or the current standard, or both	Chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors, and employers

**Who is affected?**

Chemical producers, manufacturers and importers will need to review the hazard information for all their chemicals produced or imported, classify them using the new criteria and update their labels and SDSs accordingly for distribution. Employers will need to use these new labels and SDS sheets and provide updated training for all employees.

**What are the benefits?**

The basic goal of hazard communication is to ensure that employers, employees and the public are provided with adequate, practical, reliable and comprehensible information on the hazards of chemicals, so that they can take effective preventive and protective measure for their health and safety. Thus, implementation of effective hazard communication provides benefits for **governments, companies, workers, and members of the public.**

**What is Betco® doing to comply with these new requirements?**

**Reclassification of products** – in progress

**Labeling changes** – in progress

**MSDS to SDS** – in progress

**Training materials** – in progress; the current Betco OSHA Hazardous Communication’s Training Module will be updated

Additional information concerning the GHS changes can be found by going to the links below or by visiting [www.ISSA.com/GHS](http://www.ISSA.com/GHS).

- [Side-by-Side Comparison of Current Haz Com Standard Versus New GHS Standard](#)
- [Overview of updated Haz Com and GHS Standards](#)
- [GHS Labeling information 2](#)
- [GHS SAFETY DATA SHEETS 1](#)
- [GHS SAFETY DATA SHEETS 2](#)
- [GHS Pictograms](#)

*This information is offered for the confidential use of Betco personnel and the company's authorized distributors. It is presented based on our research which we believe to be correct and objective. No guarantee is expressed or implied. Please provide your own evaluation prior to drawing any conclusions.*