

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS LABELS AND SAFETY DATA SHEETS:

THE OSHA HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD (29 CFR 1910.1200) AND ADOPTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELING OF CHEMICALS (GHS).

The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) formally updated the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) March 26, 2012. The standard now conforms to the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) by providing for changes in container and package labeling and a standardized Safety Data Sheet format. Effects of this change have begun to appear on container labels and other associated paperwork that First Responders encounter in their daily activities and at emergency incidents.

Portions of the new standard became effective on May 25, 2012 and it must be fully implemented by June 1, 2016. As many fire service and emergency medical service agencies across New York State may not be fully aware of these changes, this bulletin includes information about the standard, an employer's responsibility to train employees about the standard, and identifies resources where additional information is available.

The new edition of the Hazard Communication Standard requires employers to have trained their employees in the updated standard by December 1, 2013. Major changes to the Hazard Communication Standard include:

- **Labels:** Chemical manufacturers and importers must provide a label that includes a signal word, pictogram, hazard statement, and precautionary statement for each hazard class and category. Here are two examples of the new pictograms.



- **Safety Data Sheets:** Will replace Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and include 16 specific and standardized sections to provide consistency in presentation of important product safety information. **NOTE: These documents utilize a new hazard numbering classification system of 1-4, with 1 being the most hazardous.**

Please note this standard addresses container and product labeling and does not cover US DOT regulations for transportation placarding and labeling as per 49 CFR 171-177, or modify the placarding requirements of NFPA 704 applied to fixed facilities.

Information on the standard can be found on US Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration's website: <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>. Resources such as briefs, fact sheets, wallet cards, quick cards and the final rule are available at this website. In response to the changes made to the HCS, Additionally OFPC has updated its hazardous materials training courses to reflect the new standard and changes to the HCS. If you have any further questions you may contact the Special Operations Branch of OFPC at (518) 474-6746.



Distributed by the  
NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

OFFICE OF  
**FIRE PREVENTION  
& CONTROL**

Andrew M. Cuomo, **Governor**  
Jerome M. Hauer, **Commissioner**

**phone** 518.474.6746  
**fax** 518.474.3240  
**email** [fire@dhses.ny.gov](mailto:fire@dhses.ny.gov)