The GHS in brief

What is the GHS?
The Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is an internationally agreed system for classifying and labelling hazardous chemicals.

Why do we need it?
The GHS will reduce time and costs, remove barriers to trade, and protect people and the environment from chemical hazards.

Who does it affect?
If you are a manufacturer, importer, seller or user of hazardous chemicals, you need to take action on changes to labelling and classification.

What are the changes?
The changes affect the way chemicals are classified and how information is communicated.

Pictograms
The GHS uses nine standard symbols with one of two word signal statements – danger or warning.

Labels
Changes to labels include simpler hazard and precautionary statements.

Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
The SDS uses clear language under 16 universal headings.

Transition period
NSW must be GHS compliant by 31 December 2016.

Other countries
Some of our largest trading partners have adopted the GHS, making trade easier between us.

In Australia
Australia began transitioning in 2012 after adopting the GHS Third Edition.

What do I need to do?
Make sure all your chemicals are classified under GHS, re-labelled and you have a new or updated SDS.

Who do I contact?
Talk to us on 13 10 50 or email contact@safework.nsw.gov.au.