

# International reach through local focus



Classification and labelling involves an evaluation of the hazard of a substance or preparation in accordance with Directive 67/548/EEC (substances) and 1999/45/EC (preparations). The aim of these directives is to protect people and the environment by requiring suppliers to provide information about dangers and to package chemicals safely.



Classification and labelling form an important part of the submission process for approval of substances and preparations under 91/414 (agrochemicals), 98/8 (biocides) and 1907/2006 (REACH). APC can advise on the classification and labelling of substances and preparations as part of the dossier preparation and submission procedure. APC experts cover over 40 countries and are able to offer advice on specific national labelling requirements.



Classification and labelling of substances within the EU is administered by the European Chemicals Bureau (ECB). The Group discusses classification and labelling of substances of special concern, which are then entered into the list of harmonised classifications of substances, Annex I of Directive 67/548/EEC, which is legally binding.



Professional recipients of a dangerous substance or preparation should be supplied with an up to date material safety data sheet (MSDS). MSDSs are intended to communicate hazard information and provide workers and emergency personnel with procedures for handling or working with that chemical in a safe manner.



All substances and preparations manufactured or imported into the EU must be assessed for their hazards according to the relevant directive and the resulting classification must be communicated via an appropriate label. The assessment considers several end-points including physical-chemical properties, health and environmental effects.



Within the EU, MSDSs must be prepared in accordance with the safety data sheet directive (91/155/EEC, as amended by 93/112/EC). The 16 point format includes information on product composition, physical chemical properties, toxicity, environmental data, health effects, first aid, reactivity, storage, disposal, protective equipment, and spill handling procedures. MSDSs are required for most chemicals including agrochemicals, biocides and general chemicals.



*APC can prepare MSDSs for substances and preparations according to EU criteria. Our team of experts covering over 40 countries is able to offer advice on specific national requirements.*

our team provides a complete service for the plant protection, biocide & chemical industries



GHS stands for the United Nations Globally Harmonised System of classification and labelling of chemicals. Currently there are numerous different systems for classification and labelling throughout the world. This means the same chemical may have a different classification in different countries.



The aim of the GHS is to have globally consistent:

- criteria for classifying chemicals according to their health, environmental and physical hazards
- hazard communication requirements for labelling and safety data sheets.



GHS applies to chemical substances and mixtures/preparations.

A revised second edition of the GHS (published in July 2007) is now superseded by the new Regulation "Classification, Labelling, Packaging" (Reg 1272/2008) which entered into force on 20 January 2009.



GHS is a non-legally binding international agreement. Therefore countries (or trading blocks) must create local or national legislation to implement the GHS.



In the EU the European Commission is responsible for the implementation of GHS and has produced a proposed Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of substances and mixtures. The Regulation will allow a transition period to allow a gradual migration from the existing system to the new regime, which will last for up to 7½ years (2-3 years for the classification of substances and then 4½ years for the classification of mixtures). The transitional period is anticipated to end in June 2015.

The European Commission has designed the proposed GHS-based Regulation to fit in with REACH. Complying with the GHS-based Regulation will be necessary to achieve compliance with REACH.



Under GHS, EU risk phrases will be replaced with new hazard statements and safety phrases replaced with new precautionary statements. A new set of labels will be used to communicate the hazard.

*APC can advise on classification and labelling of your active substances and products under GHS and help you through the transition period to ensure you are compliant with the new regulation. We can also help with GHS compliance under REACH.*



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or find our nearest office on [www.apc.eu.com](http://www.apc.eu.com)