

HCS Definitions

- **Chemical:** any substance or mixture of substances.
- **Chemical manufacturer:** an employer with a workplace where chemicals are produced for use or distribution.
- **Classification:** to identify the relevant data regarding the hazards of a chemical, and decide whether the chemical will be classified as hazardous.
- **Container:** any object that can safely hold a hazardous chemical.
- **Employee:** a worker who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals under normal conditions or in an emergency.
- **Employer:** the person who manages a business where chemicals are used, distributed, or produced.
- **Globally Harmonized System (GHS):** this system for classifying and labeling chemicals is an element of the Hazard Communication Standard. It is a system used to keep hazard labels and Safety Data Sheets consistent around the world.
- **Health hazard:** a chemical for where there is evidence that short term or long term health effects may occur in exposed employees. The term “health hazard” includes chemicals which are cancer-causing, poisonous agents, irritants, corrosives, etc.
- **Hazard category:** it is how hazard criteria are organized within each hazard class.
- **Hazard class:** means the way physical or health hazards are defined e.g., flammable solid, flammable liquid, or cancer-causing.
- **Hazardous chemical:** any chemical that is a physical or health hazard.
- **Importer:** the first business with employees which receives hazardous chemicals produced in other countries for the purpose of supplying them to distributors or employers within the United States.
- **Label:** any written, printed, or graphic material displayed on the containers of hazardous chemicals.
- **Label elements:** the specified pictogram, statement, or signal word (i.e. “Danger” or “Warning”) for each hazard class and category.
- **Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):** printed material concerning hazardous chemical information.
- **Mixture:** any combination of two or more substances in which they do not react.

- **Physical hazard:** a chemical that is classified as posing one of the following hazardous effects: explosive; flammable; oxidizer; self-reactive; pyrophoric; self-heating; organic peroxide; metal corrosion; gas under pressure; or in contact with water emits flammable gas.
- **Produce:** to manufacture, process, formulate, blend, extract, generate, emit, or repackage.
- **Safety Data Sheet (SDS):** The GHS uses this new form of the MSDS that contains written or printed material concerning hazardous chemical information.
- **Use:** to package, handle, react, emit, extract, generate as a byproduct, or transfer.
- **Work area:** a room or defined space in a workplace where hazardous chemicals are produced or used, and where employees are present.
- **Workplace:** an establishment, job site, or project, at one geographical location containing one or more work areas.