

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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Implementation of GHS

Implementation of GHS in Brazil

Transmitted by the expert from Brazil

Latest developments related the GHS implementation in Brazil

1. The Brazilian government is continuing the work for the implementation of the GHS.
2. Last month (May, 2011), the Ministry of Labour and Employment, in a meeting of the National Tripartite Standing Commission (composed by representatives of government, employers and workers), revised the Health & Safety Labour Standard number 26 (from 1978) to update with GHS.
3. The revised text of the Standard number 26, published by the Ordinance 229, in 24th May 2011, adopts the GHS for Classification, Labeling and Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
4. The text, which is short, describes general aspects and obligations and refer that specific aspects must follow the Brazilian Technical Standard NBR 14.725, which deals with GHS (now is free of charge, in Portuguese language, of course).
5. The Technical Standard 14.725 is divided in four parts: Part 1 – Terminology, Part 2 – Classification, Part 3 – Labeling, Part 4 – SDS and is based in the 1st revised edition of the Purple Book. However, is in process to update with the 3rd edition of the Purple Book.
6. It Is expected for next month the public consultation and soon the adoption of the 3rd edition.
7. The implementation timeline for the Health & Safety Labour Standard number 26 will be the same of Technical Standard 14.725: February 2011 for substances (already in place) and June 2015 for mixtures.
8. Until not developed a Brazilian list of substances harmonized with the GHS, the Standard number 26 accepts the use of international harmonized lists, like European Union or, we hope in near future, the UN GHS harmonized list of substances.
9. The Standard number 26 also refer the obligation of training for the workers on labels, pictograms, etc.
10. Despite of short text of the Health & Safety Labour Standard number 26, this is a big step in the way of the implementation of GHS in Brazil.
11. In the second semester of this year Ministry of Labour and Employment will publish a Guide on it.