

GHS Fact sheet

HS681: An introduction to the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals



"Never Starts Still"

To address inconsistencies in the way chemicals are classified by various regulatory bodies in different countries, the United Nations has developed a new system for categorising chemicals on the basis of their inherent hazards and for ensuring consistent labelling of such chemicals worldwide. This system is called the *Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*.

Respirator Sensitiser Cat. 1, 1A, 1B
Germ Cell Mutagenicity
Carcinogen
Reproductive Toxin
Specific Target Organ Toxicity -
...Single exposure - Cat. 1, 2
Specific Target Organ Toxicity –
...Repeated exposure -

Acute Toxicity Cat. 4
Skin Corrosion / Irritant Cat. 2
Serious

On the other hand this is the **DG class diamond** for a flammable solid. It is clearly distinguishable from a flammable liquid.

This symbol can be used on the label provided the GHS pictogram is not used as well i.e. only one symbol should be used to indicate the particular hazard class.

If the substance happened to possess acute toxic properties or be corrosive or, for illustration purposes, possess all properties then the following pictograms could be used on the label:



13. What do I need to do now?

- a. Communicate the new GHS by displaying posters in your laboratory. Contact any of your large chemical suppliers and request a GHS poster. You can also download one from the [Safe Work Australia](#) website.
 - b. Use GHS pictograms on the Safety Hazards door poster which will replicate those found on the labels for the chemical containers. This will help people become more familiar with the GHS system.
 - c. You can use GHS labels when making your own labels from ChemAlert.
 - d. Dangerous Goods Labels will still apply to bulk dangerous goods storage areas e.g. Flammable Liquid Cabinets and cryogen tanks. These should not be replaced with GHS labels. Such dangerous goods labels are still required under Schedule 13 of the [Work Health and Safety Regulation](#).
 - e. For small quantities being stored in cupboards either a GHS label or a DG diamond can be used. However as with the point being made in s13 above, if the DG class diamond provides more specific information then it is preferable that this be used instead (e.g. for 'organic peroxides', 'dangerous when wet', 'spontaneously combustible' chemicals).
 - f. You may wish to have a supply of GHS adhesive labels available in your work areas. These can be purchased from [Brady](#) or downloaded from the [United Nations GHS](#) website.
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