What is the Global Harmonization System (GHS)?

GHS is an international System used to classify hazardous chemicals and standardize hazard information on product labels and safety data sheets, called SDSs.

What is a Safety Data Sheet?

A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is replacing the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) as the primary source for detailed hazard information about chemical products. SDSs follow a standardized format that is expected to increase familiarity so that employees can find information easily, especially in emergency situations. To see what is included in one, visit the OSHA website.

Who is impacted by the GHS-Based changes?

All employers and chemical manufacturers, importers, and distributors who are subject to Hazard Communication rules will need to adapt to the new GHS-Based rules.

What about my old MSDSs? Do I need to keep them?

You need to keep them until you phase out of your current stock of chemicals, and then replace them with each chemical's new SDS, if a new SDS is sent to you or becomes available.

How will labels change?

The information on labels will become more standardized to increase employee comprehension of the potential hazards and precautions. New labels will feature:

- Hazard Pictograms (framed by a red border)
- A signal word, such as DANGER
- Hazard and Precautionary Statements
- A Product Identifier and a Supplier Identifier

For more information, visit the EH&S website.