



 **West Virginia University**
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY
Hazard Communication Tip Sheet

New changes to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard are bringing the United States into alignment with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS), further improving safety and health protections for America's workers. Building on the success of OSHA's current Hazard Communication Standard, the GHS is expected to prevent injuries and illnesses, save lives and improve trade conditions for chemical manufacturers. The Hazard Communication Standard in 1983 gave the workers the 'right to know,' but the new Globally Harmonized System gives workers the 'right to understand.'

Precautions:

- Make sure Safety Data Sheets (**SDSs**) are readily available for all chemicals in the work area either in hard copy or electronically. Employees must read and understand the SDS's or a supervisor shall notify employees of hazards associated with the chemicals.
- **Labelling** is important for identifying what chemicals are in different containers. Chemical manufacturers and importers must provide a label that includes a signal word, pictogram, hazard statement, and precautionary statement for each hazard class and category. (see below)

<p><i>My Product</i> Warning! Cause Skin And Eye Irritation Suspected of causing cancer by inhalation Contains: XYZ</p>	
<p>Do not breathe vapors or mist. Use only with adequate ventilation. Avoid contact with eyes, skin and clothing. Wash thoroughly after handling</p>	
<p>FIRST AID EYES: Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes. Get medical attention. SKIN: In case of contact, immediately flush skin with plenty of water. Remove contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash clothing before reuse. Get medical attention if irritation develops and persists.</p>	
<p>Company name, Address, Phone number</p>	

- Hazard Communication **training** is available online on WVU eCampus or a classroom training is available. Please call WVU Environmental Health & Safety for available training dates. Training is required upon hiring and annually.
- Understand all information and potential hazards associated with the chemicals you may be working with prior to use.
- Each department is to maintain a **Hazardous Chemical Inventory**.