The United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has adopted and is requiring the implementation of the United Nations’ Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System will include changes in Safety Data Sheets, Labeling, and Pictograms.

SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)

The documents formally called Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are now known as Safety Data Sheets (SDS) under the Globally Harmonized System.

A SDS identifies the substance and its hazardous properties, and outline appropriate safety precautions. A SDS is comprised of 16 standardized sections:

1. Identification of Substance
2. Hazard Identification
3. Composition of Ingredients
4. First-Aid Measures
5. Accidental Release Measures
6. Fire-Fighting Measures
7. Handling & Storage
8. Exposure Controls/PPE
9. Physical/Chemical Properties
10. Stability & Reactivity
11. Toxicological Information
12. Ecological Information
13. Disposal Considerations
14. Transport Information
15. Regulatory Information
16. Other Information

For instructions on how to access a SDS, please visit the MUSC OSHP website.

GHS LABELING

1: Substance Identification
2: Pictogram
3: Signal Word “Warning” or “Danger”
4: Hazard Statement
5: Precautionary Statement
6: Supplier Information

TRANSPORT PICTOGRAMS

Changes have also occurred in the pictograms used in the shipping hazardous substances. The GHS transport pictograms have that same background, symbol, and colors that are currently required by the United Nations recommendations for the Transport of Dangerous Goods. (link to OSHA Website with pictogram images)

RESOURCES

- MUSC Occupational Safety and Health Programs Webpage for GHS (link)
- OSHA Guide to the Globally Harmonized System

This fact sheet is not all inclusive, but provides background information on the GHS transition. For further questions, please contact an Environmental Health Manager at 2-3604.