



# ***Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)***

**Presentation to RCC Stakeholder Dialogue Session  
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# Content

1. Overview of the GHS initiative
2. Progress update
3. Process for ongoing alignment work
4. Next steps and key issues
5. Questions



# Overview of GHS

RCC commitment on workplace chemicals is to:

- Align and synchronize implementation of common classification and labelling requirements for workplace chemicals within the mandate of the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Health Canada through:
- Making compatible our respective standards-related measures; and
- Enhancing and strengthening the sharing and exchange of regulatory information.



# Overview of GHS

## Key principles:

- No reduction in worker health and safety in either jurisdiction;
- Respecting the respective regulatory process;  
and
- Respecting the legislative framework.



# Overview of GHS

## Key deliverables:

- 1) Establish a mechanism to coordinate the implementation of the GHS and any future updates on the GHS in our respective jurisdictions;
- 2) As part of the permanent mechanism, set up a process for stakeholder input on the RCC GHS initiatives;
- 3) Coordinate technical interpretations related to GHS implementation for workplace chemicals; and
- 4) Implement the GHS for workplace chemicals.



# Progress update – Coordination Mechanism

MOU between Health Canada and US-OSHA developed that:

- Establishes collaborative process
- Formally establishes a working group
- Outlines common principles
- Allows for ongoing alignment

MOU formally signed at the RCC meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>



## Progress update – Permanent Mechanism

US-OSHA held a public consultation in April 2012 on the RCC coordination mechanism.

Health Canada held a key stakeholder consultation in May 2012 on the RCC coordination mechanism – a document was circulated outlining key principles.

Both agencies coordinate stakeholder input prior to the UN GHS meetings through existing stakeholder committees.

Both agencies meet to coordinate views prior to each UN GHS meeting.



## Progress update – Coordinate Technical Interpretation

Health Canada and US-OSHA meet via teleconference twice a month to review technical interpretations and provide regulatory updates.

Health Canada and the provinces and territories have put in place a training working group that will feed into the development of joint/common educational materials with the US.

US-OSHA is developing technical guidance products and will consult with Health Canada prior to publication.





# Progress update – Implement GHS

US-OSHA released its Final Rule in March 2012.

Health Canada undertook consultations on the legislative amendments in June 2012.



## Process for the next three months for ongoing alignment work

### **UNSEGHS:**

Health Canada and US-OSHA will align positions to the degree possible prior to the July UNSEGHS meeting.

### **Canadian Regulatory Initiatives:**

Health Canada will continue work to align our regulatory initiative with the US Final Rule.

### **Ongoing Consultations:**

- Combustible dust
- Classification for kits



## Next steps

### **Next Steps – US-OSHA:**

- Issue technical guidance documents
  - Hazard classification
  - Model training

### **Next Steps – Health Canada:**

- Consult on the proposed regulations
- Table amended legislation



## Next steps

### **Stakeholder Public Meeting:**

Public meeting planned for Fall 2013 on proposed Canadian regulations and US-OSHA technical guidance for hazard classification.

### **Joint Educational Materials:**

Next area of focus for the workplan.



## Questions

Are there key milestones where a public meeting would be most useful for stakeholders on both sides of the border?

Which key alignment issues are of most concern to stakeholders?