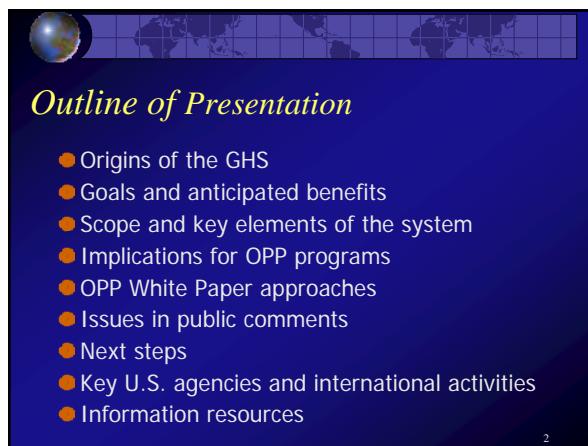


Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS): Background and Overview

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Stakeholder Public Meeting
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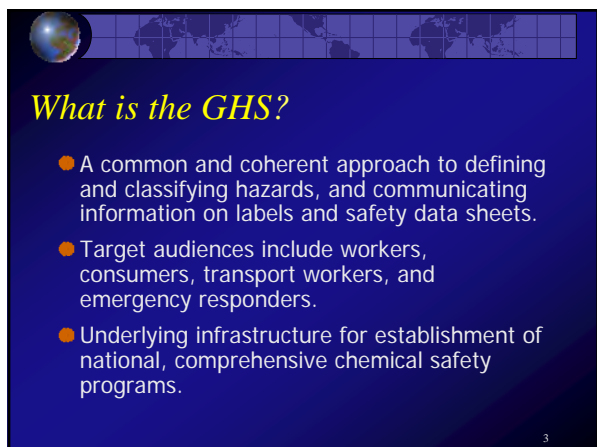
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Outline of Presentation

- Origins of the GHS
- Goals and anticipated benefits
- Scope and key elements of the system
- Implications for OPP programs
- OPP White Paper approaches
- Issues in public comments
- Next steps
- Key U.S. agencies and international activities
- Information resources

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What is the GHS?

- A common and coherent approach to defining and classifying hazards, and communicating information on labels and safety data sheets.
- Target audiences include workers, consumers, transport workers, and emergency responders.
- Underlying infrastructure for establishment of national, comprehensive chemical safety programs.

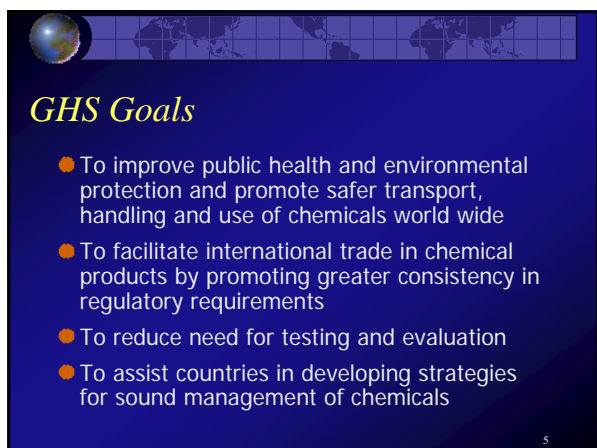
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Origins and Process

- UNCED mandate in response to the problems posed by multiple, inconsistent systems (1992)
- Negotiations for over a decade (completed in December 2002)
- Tripartite (government, industry, other stakeholders), consensus process
- U.S. leadership, tripartite participation and stakeholder process for negotiations
- UN ECOSOC approval July 2003
- UN Sub-Committee to maintain and update

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GHS Goals

- To improve public health and environmental protection and promote safer transport, handling and use of chemicals world wide
- To facilitate international trade in chemical products by promoting greater consistency in regulatory requirements
- To reduce need for testing and evaluation
- To assist countries in developing strategies for sound management of chemicals

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Anticipated Benefits to U.S. Stakeholders

- Greater consistency in information provided to people exposed to chemicals
 - *increase health and environmental protection by providing clear, consistent label messages to users of chemicals, workers and the public*
 - *signal words, pictograms, and hazard statements will have the same meaning in all settings/across sectors and internationally*

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Anticipated Benefits (2)

- Greater consistency in regulatory requirements U.S. industry must meet, at home and abroad
 - *reduce market barriers and facilitate compliance by eliminating need to learn and comply with multiple hazard classification and communications systems*
 - *companies only have to classify **once** for all authorities that implement the GHS, including other domestic agencies*

Coordinated strategies to minimize the cost of label changes and permit smooth transition critical to achieving benefits

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Scope of the GHS

- Harmonization of major existing systems for chemicals in transport, in the workplace, pesticides and consumer products—without lowering the level of protection afforded by those systems
- Classification based on intrinsic properties/hazards
- Scope covers all chemicals
- Consistent with U.S. regulatory framework

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Key Elements: What should be harmonized to be consistent with GHS (currently regulated by EPA)

- Classification criteria for physical hazards, health hazards, and aquatic toxicity, for substances and mixtures
- Certain standardized label elements: hazard pictograms, signal words, and hazard statements
- [Product and supplier identifiers, precautionary statements]

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What would not need to change to be consistent with GHS (also important to EPA)

- Supplemental information
- Testing methods (health and environment) and data requirements
- Scope of hazards covered (building block approach)
- CBI policies
- Downstream effects, risk management measures

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Implications for OPP Programs

- Implementation could affect all pesticide labels
- Pesticide users and handlers need to understand the new labels
- Regulations and policies related to classification categories need review
- International harmonization efforts may be affected (e.g., NAFTA label)

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EPA GHS Implementation Planning

- Soon after ECOSOC adoption, formed internal working group to coordinate planning and develop recommendations
- Stakeholder briefings, development of White Paper and side-by-side comparisons for public comment
- Continuing outreach and awareness raising

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GHS White Paper: Guiding Principles and Approaches

- Cover all pesticides alike (some will be unclassified)
- Adopt GHS for all hazard classes for which we now label
- In general, limit changes to those required for GHS consistency

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General Comparison of GHS and OPP Classification and Labeling Policies

- Effects/hazard classes covered
- Test methods and requirements, basis of classification, e.g., for mixtures
- Symbols/pictograms
- Signal words: health, environmental, physical hazards
- Hazard statements

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Hazard Classes on Labeling ("Building blocks")

Hazard class	GHS	OPP
Acute toxicity (lethality)	Yes	Yes
Skin corrosion/Irritation	Yes	Yes
Serious eye damage/Irritation	Yes	Yes
Respiratory or skin sensitization	Yes	Skin only
Germ cell mutagenicity	Yes	No

Hazard Classes on Labeling (2)

Hazard class	GHS	OPP
Carcinogenicity	Yes	No
Reproductive toxicity	Yes	No
TOST/single Exposure	Yes	Methanol, Others?
TOST/repeat exposure	Yes	No
Aquatic toxicity	Yes	Yes (acute only)

New Pictograms

- Category 4 acute toxicity, irritation
- Category 1 acute aquatic toxicity
- Chronic health hazard (not for pesticides)



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Product and Supplier Identifiers

- Current product and chemical names and registration number requirements satisfy GHS provisions on product identifiers
- Ingredient disclosure rules differ for inerts, but GHS provides that CBI rules may override ingredient disclosure provisions
- No changes in CBI policies with GHS
- Expand supplier contact information (name, address, establishment number) to include telephone number?

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