

ASUG Environmental Health & Compliance SIG Newsletter

Welcome to the Environmental Health & Compliance (EH&S) SIG newsletter! The EH&S SIG is focused on SAP users responsible for environmental, health, compliance and safety issues within their organizations. These issues include, but aren't limited to: product safety, dangerous goods, waste management and the various xApps that complement the EH&S module. For more information, please visit the [EH&S SIG jump page](#).

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Understanding the Impact of GHS

By: Jillaine Dellis, Vice President - Ariel Global Research and Operations, *3E Company*

Background

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) was formally adopted in July, 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council and endorsed by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. The objective of GHS is to promote consistent criteria for the classification and labeling of chemicals based on their health and environmental effects and physical hazards and to provide compatible safety data sheets and labeling to the general public, workers and employees. Additionally, GHS provides a structure which can be used by those countries which have not yet implemented a chemical management system.

Understanding the Scope

As much as GHS is meant to drive global harmonization, individual countries are allowed to select the physical hazards, the health and environment classes, and the associated categories within each class that they wish to adopt. As a result, there will be far less harmonization between countries and regulatory authorities within each country than originally anticipated. Harmonization occurs at the category level where the category cutoff values or limits are defined. That is, countries can choose which classes and which categories within those classes they want to adopt, but once a category is selected, the cutoff values or limits must be accepted as stated. For example, a category 1 flammable liquid will always be defined as one where the flashpoint is < 23 °C and the initial boiling point is less than or equal to 35 °C.

Regarding communication, GHS requires a 16-section MSDS which will include more extensive information than that which is required by the current 16-section ANSI and ISO MSDS standards.

A GHS label will consist of the following components: a pictogram, signal words, hazard statements, precautionary statements and related pictograms, and product identifiers and supplier information.

Understanding the Impact

GHS is especially problematic for countries such as the United States, where multiple regulatory authorities govern different aspects of GHS. In the United States, the following are impacted by GHS: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Environmental Protection Agency - Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (EPA-FIFRA), Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), and the Department of Transportation (DOT). Each agency has the right to adopt GHS in a way that best suits their purpose with no consideration given to a unified approach or timeline. This is especially challenging when more than one government entity has authority related to the same requirement, as is the case with MSDS. Although OSHA is primarily responsible for defining MSDS requirements, the DOT is responsible for certain sections as well (i.e. the transport section).

One of the most significant shifts for those based in the United States is moving from a risk-based classification approach to a hazard-based classification approach. Instead of considering the likelihood or probability of an event occurring, classification will be absolute under GHS. The introduction of symbols is also a relatively new concept.

Adoption of GHS - Status

Many countries are at various stages in adopting GHS, with Japan having certain parts of GHS already in place. Korea and Taiwan are the countries in Asia likely to be next. In Europe, the European Commission has adopted a proposal in line with GHS and has moved this proposal to the EU Parliament and Council for review. The United States lags behind both regions in GHS adoption.

Conclusion

Implementation will be labor intensive, especially in the initial stages. Companies will need to re-evaluate how their substances and mixtures are classified for each regulatory entity, country and/or region and will likely need to re-issue several MSDSs and labels. If you need assistance, an outsourced solution provider, such as the 3E Company, may be a valuable asset in helping you develop and implement a course of action.

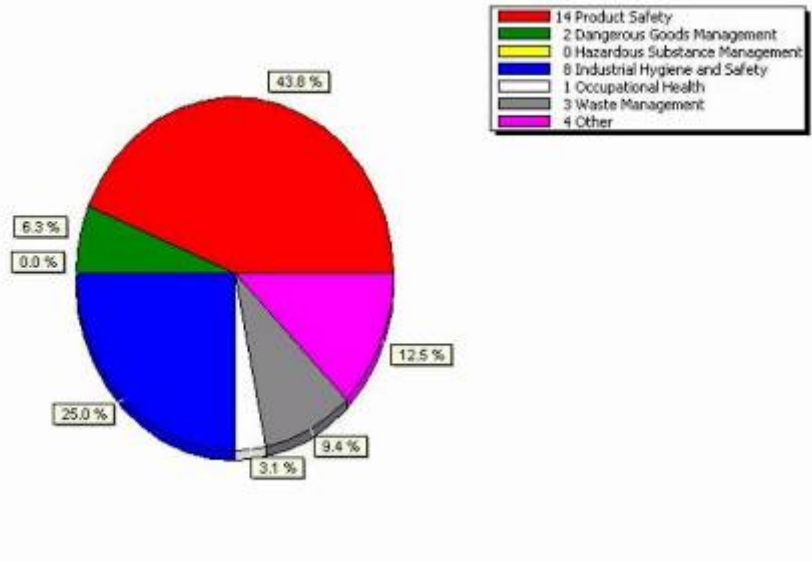
ASUG EH&S Influence Survey Results

By: Doug North, *Champion Technologies*

I would like to personally thank everyone that participated in the recent survey we sent out regarding the creation of an ASUG Influence Council (IC) for the EH&S Module. Based on the results, we are close to having enough interest in creating several sub-module specific Councils, however, to ensure that these Influence Councils are as effective as possible and to continue to move in a steady and positive direction, we plan to begin with an IC that will collect feedback on all functionality in EH&S. Then, perhaps after the first year and displayed success, we can work to launch more specific ICs focused specifically on each sub-module.

I have initiated the process to have an EH&S IC launched at the [2008 ASUG Annual Conference](#) in Orlando. If approved, we will hold a Launch Webcast prior to Annual Conference to introduce the Influence Council and gather participants. As with all other ICs, it will not be mandatory that you attend all meetings in person; we will hold virtual sessions as well. However, I think it would be great if we could kick-off the EH&S IC at the Annual Conference. We hope to receive word that this IC has been approved soon. Once we have confirmation of approval, we will work to set up the Launch Webcast. Please look for future communications regarding this Influence Council.

If you could have influence or change any one sub-module, which would it be?



ASUG Environmental Compliance Influence Council Update

By: the ASUG Environmental Compliance Influence Council Leadership Team

We would like to thank those of you who were able to join the [ASUG Environmental Compliance Influence Council Launch Webcast](#) on October 15th. As described on the Webcast, this Council gives you the opportunity to share, network, and communicate your ideas and concerns about SAP Environmental Compliance (formerly xEM) directly with your peers, as well as development and solutions management from SAP and TechniData. To ensure participants receive the most benefit from every session scheduled, we would like to find a customer to join the Influence Council leadership team. This role would include leading future sessions by moderating the participant discussion and working with the SAP and TechniData contacts to consolidate and prioritize development requests. We feel that it is vital to include a customer on the leadership team, and will wait until a customer lead is identified before planning and announcing the next sessions and activities.

If you are interested in acting as the customer lead for the Environmental Compliance Influence Council and would like more details regarding the position, or if you have any colleagues who might be interested in acting as the customer lead, please contact:

- [Dr. Ruediger Kreuzholz](#), *SAP Solution Manager*
- [Hitesh Patel](#), *TechniData Solution Manager*

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the EH&S SIG Leadership Team.

Happy Holidays!

[Doug North](#), *Champion Technologies*
ASUG EH&S SIG Chair

[Jim Sachse](#), *McCormick and Company, Inc.*
ASUG EH&S SIG Program Chair

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