GHS Information Session

D'information sur le SGH

Welcome! ***Bienvenue!***

Interpretation

July 2026

GHS PARTNERSHIP

unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Agenda

01. Presentation | Valerie Frison, OECD
02. Introduction to the GHS Course | Delena Indar, UNITAR
03. Past participant remarks
04. Introduction to course tutor/s
05. Q&A

This session will share information on the GHS, related resources and UNITAR's upcoming Courses, which will benefit those requiring more knowledge on labelling and classifying chemicals.

Quick Zoom Poll

1. How would you describe your current experience with the GHS?
   Comment décririez-vous votre expérience actuelle au sein du SGH ?

2. Which best describes your affiliation?
   Quelle option correspond le mieux à votre statut ?

3. What are you most interested in learning about today?
   Qu'aimeriez-vous surtout découvrir aujourd'hui ?

Context of the GHS

GHS is the backbone of chemicals management –
a fundamental component of the sound management of chemicals, applicable to all sectors; **health, labour, agriculture, environment, transport, trade, and more**.

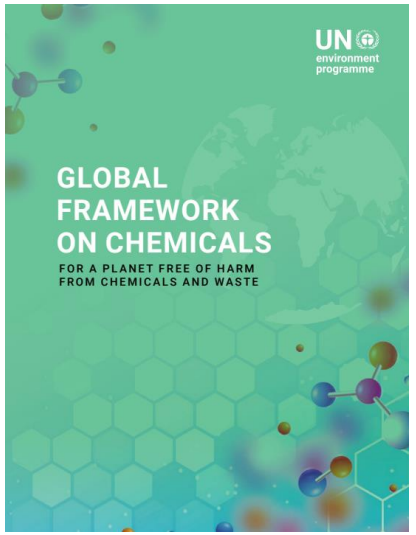
Purpose and benefits of the GHS

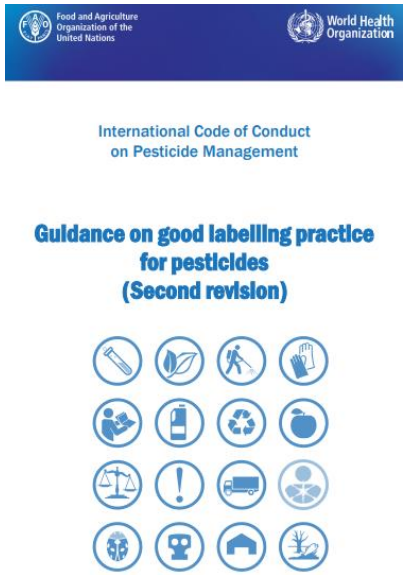
Enhance the protection of human health and the environment by providing an internationally comprehensible system for hazard communication;

Provide a legal framework for countries [without an existing system];

Reduce the need for testing and evaluation of chemicals;

Facilitate international trade in chemicals whose hazards have been properly assessed and identified on an international basis

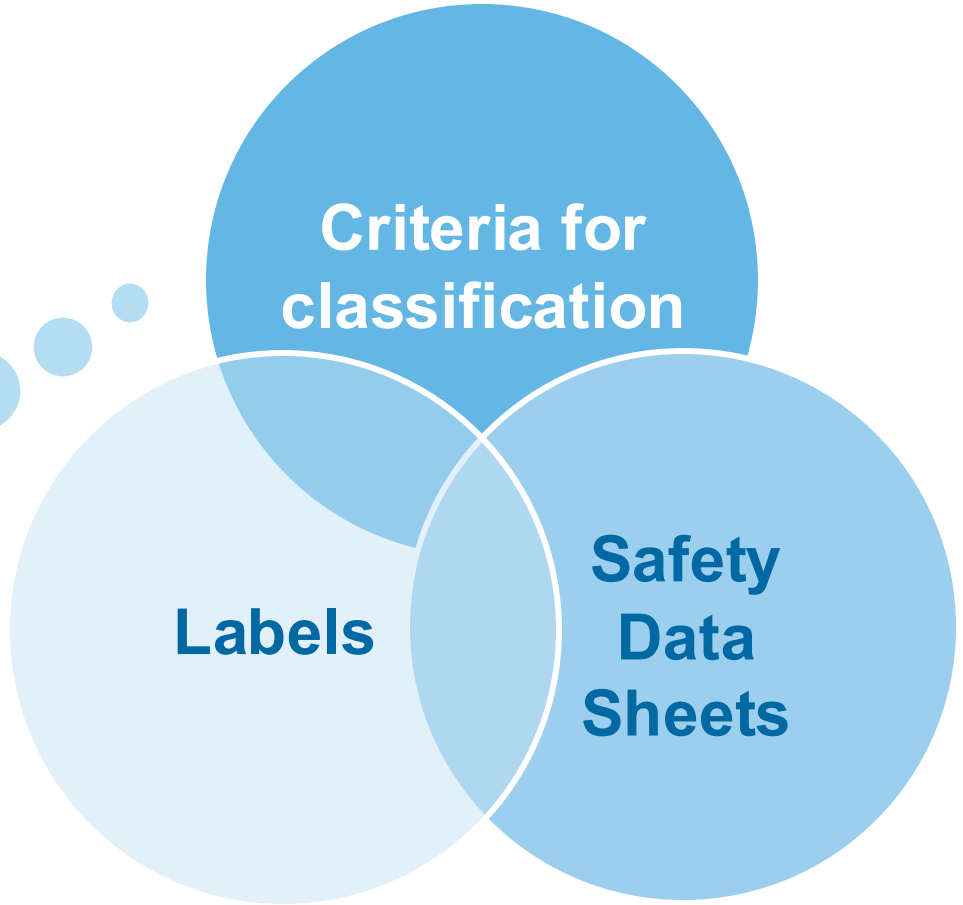




Elements of GHS

Hazard assessment

Is it hazardous? How hazardous is it?



How do you make people aware of the hazard?

Hazard communication

Presentation

GHS: A common language for safer work and safer trade -

The policy value and scientific foundations of hazard communication

Valerie FRISON
OECD

GHS: a common language for safer work and safer trade

The policy value and scientific foundations of hazard communication

29 July 2026

One chemical, many actors, one common language

Producer

Manufactures chemicals

Exporter

Ships to overseas markets

Importer

Receives and stores chemicals

Workplace

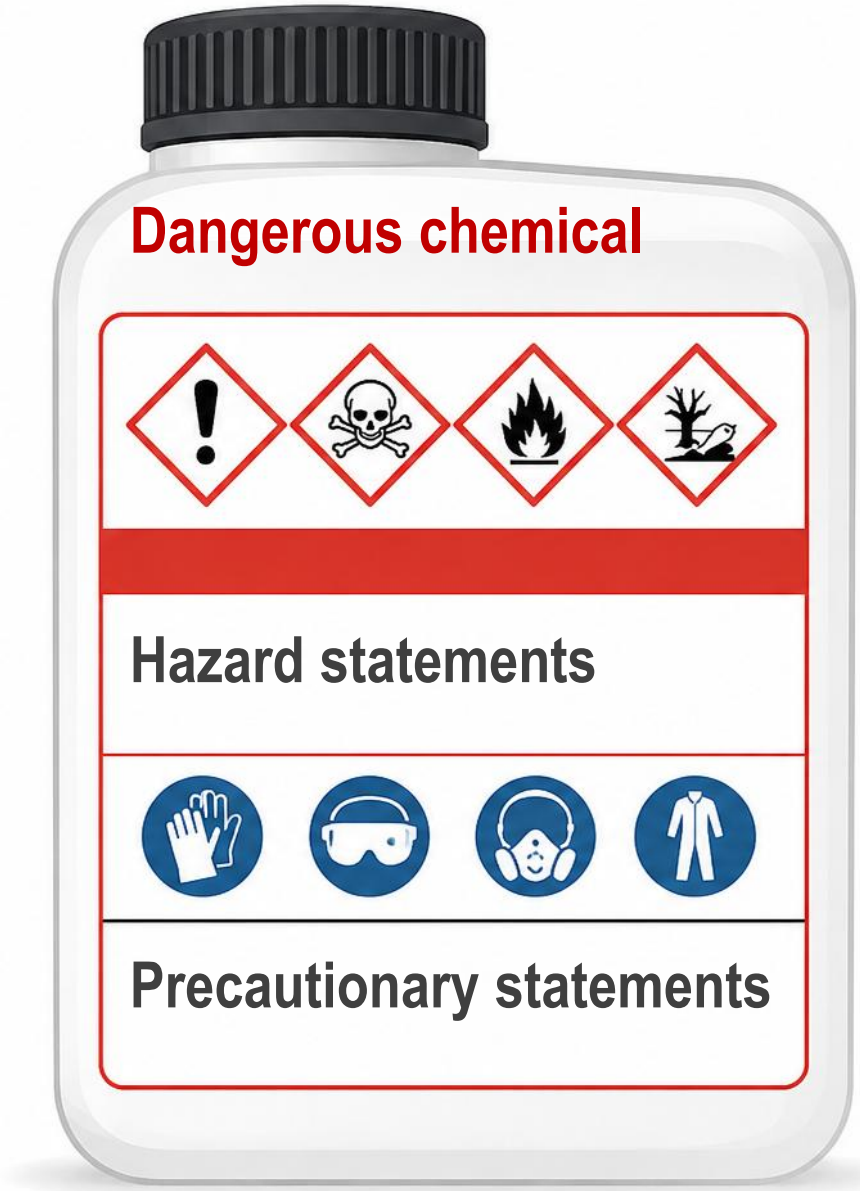
Uses chemicals safely in operations

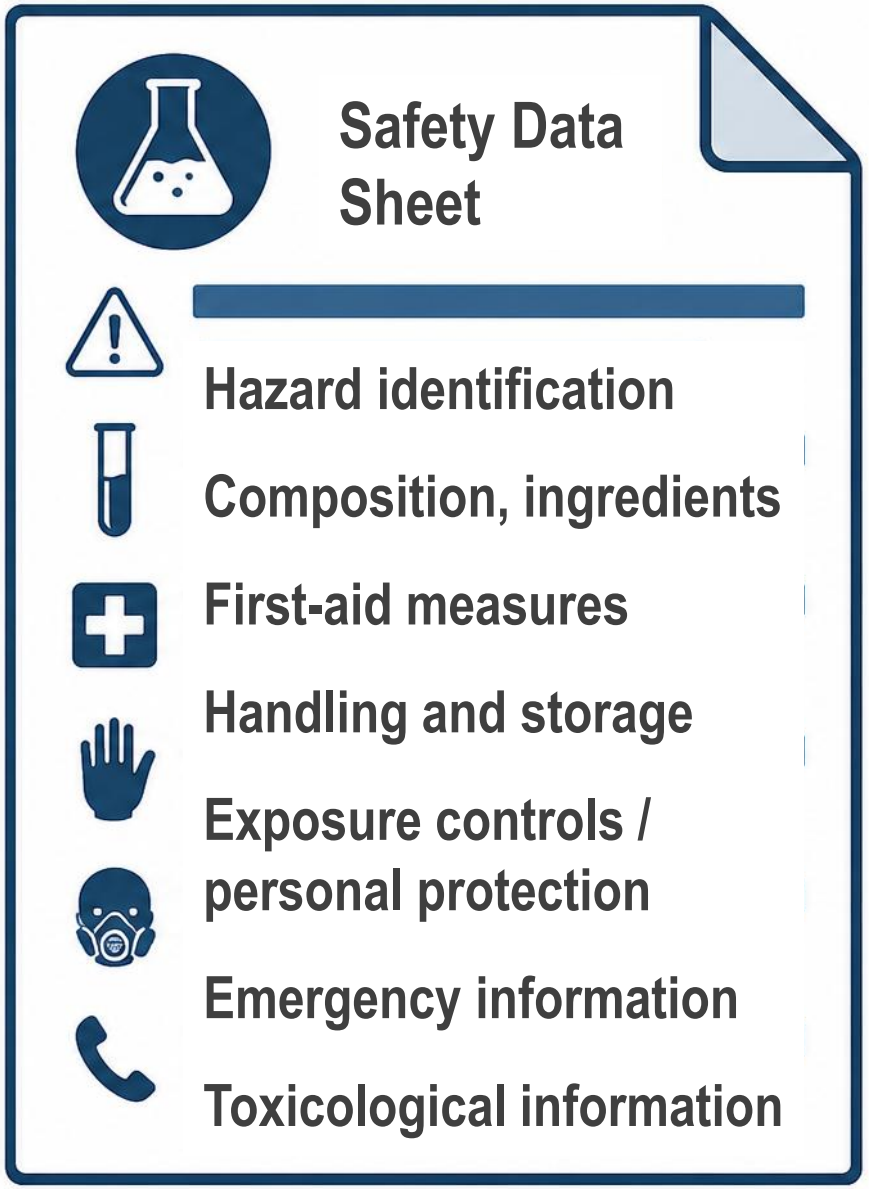
Worker

Protected through clear hazard information

Building trust along the supply chain: enabling trade and safer work

GHS enables information to travel with chemicals





Protecting trade secrets without compromising chemical safety by communicating hazards

oecd/legal/0199

Confidential Business Information

Formulation of a mixture,

Manufacturing processes,

Production volumes,

Customer or supplier information,

Precise

Other technical information

Hazard and Safety Information

GHS Labels

Safety Data Sheets

Decision of the Council concerning the Minimum Pre-Marketing Set of Data in the Assessment of Chemicals

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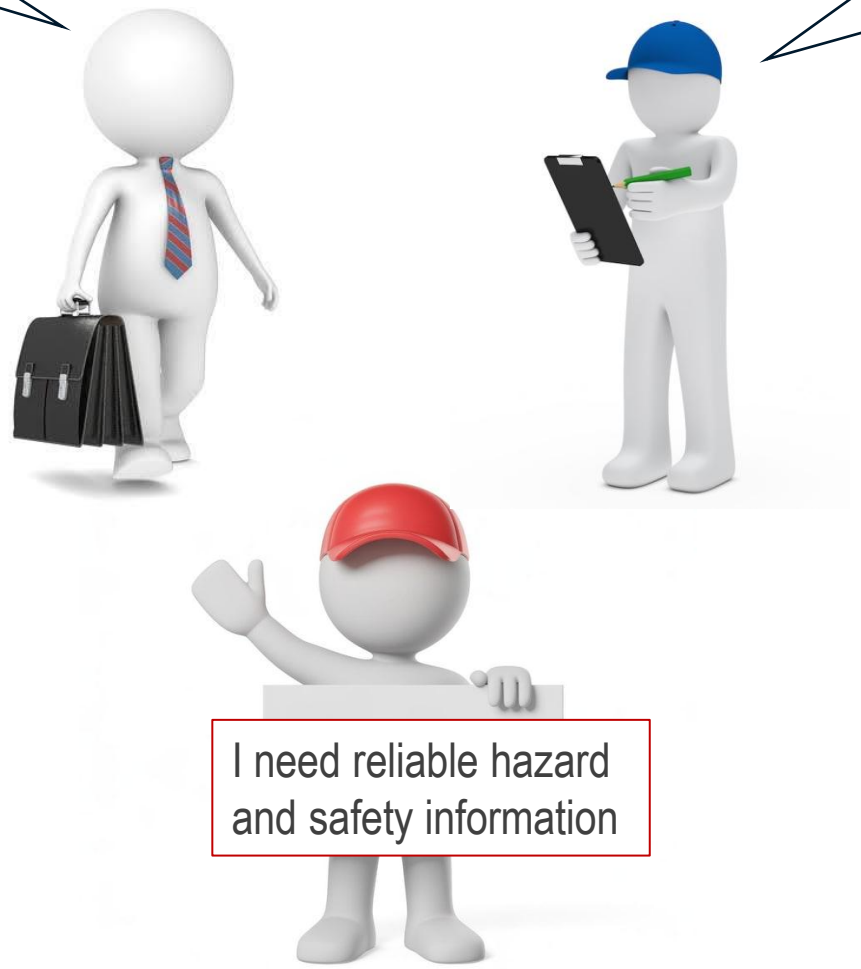
A real-world challenge: when information meets confidentiality

My formulation is commercially sensitive

I need sufficient information to verify compliance



I need reliable hazard and safety information

Protecting trade secrets without compromising chemical safety by communicating hazards

oecd/legal/0199

Building trust in the information: the science behind the GHS

How the OECD contributes to the scientific foundation of the GHS

Scientific evidence

Research & Data

OECD Test methods

Standardised & validated

Hazard identification

Risk Assessment

GHS classification

Harmonised criteria

Label & SDS

Hazard communication

Restricted Use - À usage restreint

Role of OECD

When the GHS was established, the OECD work focused on [human] health and environmental hazards and was initially related to:

- Comparing existing classification systems
- Examining the scientific basis for criteria for the hazard class of concern, gaining expert consensus on test methods, data interpretation, and level of concern, then seeking consensus on the criteria
- Development on a process for using criteria (e.g. a decision tree)

OECD is the lead organisation for development of harmonised hazard criteria (though the GHS is not exclusively tied to OECD Test Guidelines)

OECD asked for input on scientific and technical issues; e.g. potential new hazard classes

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Endocrine disruptors: is the GHS keeping pace with science?

OECD *ad hoc* expert group mandate

- Identify any gaps regarding the possibility to adequately classify and label EDs under the GHS
- Review the science needed for classification and labelling of substances and mixtures that have endocrine disrupting properties
- Assess whether the existing definition of endocrine disrupters as defined by the WHO/IPCS (2002) is sufficient in the context of the GHS

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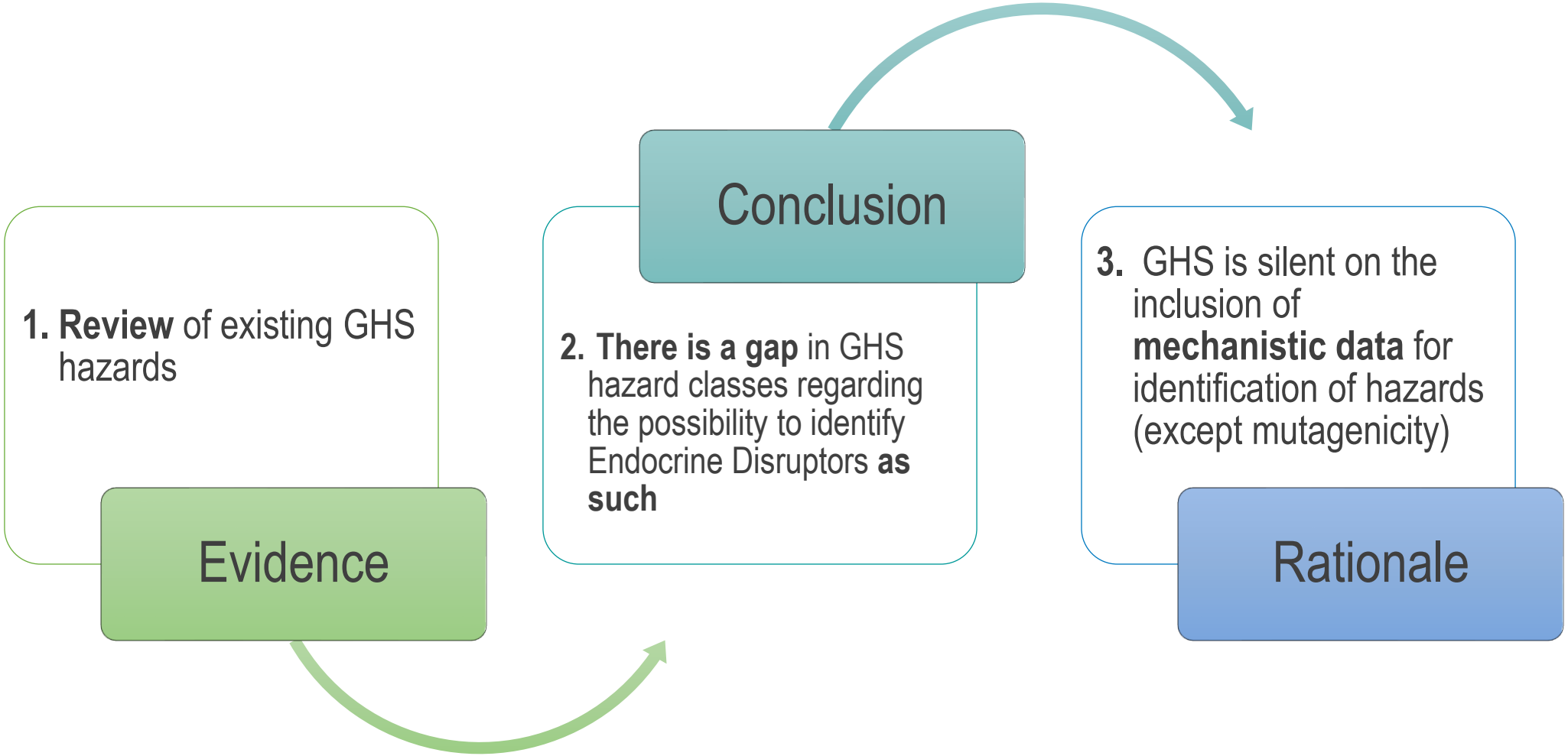
Key findings: A gap in the GHS with regard to classifying endocrine disruptors



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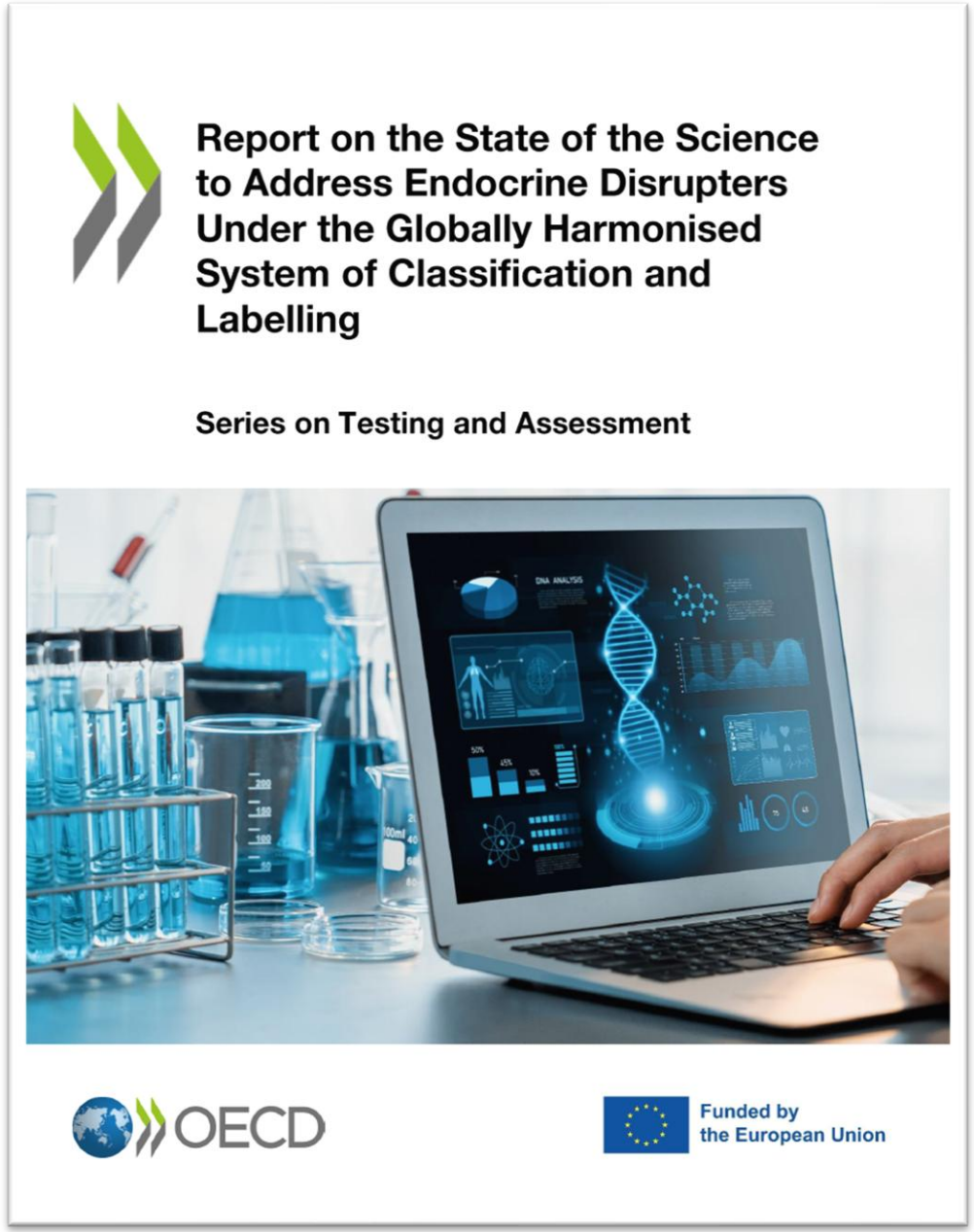
What does the science tell us – and what comes next?

OECD report

Conclusion: there are substantial gaps in the availability, standardisation, and validation for methods available to identify endocrine disruption beyond the best-understood hormonal pathways.

Next: Basis for future research, standardisation, validation efforts to expand guideline methods for identifying Endocrine Disruptors



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GHS: building trust from science to safe use

Internationally agreed methods	Globally Harmonized System	Information travels with chemicals
OECD Test Guidelines	Classifications	
Good Laboratory Practice	Labelling	
Mutual Acceptance of Data	Safety Data Sheets	

A science-based common language for chemical hazards helps protect people while enabling chemicals to move safely through global supply chains.

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Thank you

Valerie.frison@oecd.org

Q & A

GHS: A common language for safer work and safer trade -

The policy value and scientific foundations of hazard communication

Valerie FRISON
OECD

GHS Partnership

- UNITAR, OECD and ILO co-leads the Global Partnership to Implement the GHS, with and a range of coalition partners: Governments, regional organisations, private sector, trade unions, academics and NGOs;

- Activities for training and awareness raising, developing implementation strategies, and supporting the drafting and review of legislation

GHS PARTNERSHIP

International Labour Organization

OECD BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

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IOMC Toolbox and the GHS

https://iomctoolbox.org/

Guidance in the IOMC toolbox on the GHS:

- Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy,
- Understanding the GHS: A Companion Guide to the Purple Book

Past Participant

Azeb Dagne, Ethiopia

BIO

- Head of the Environmental Audit Department and the National Focal Point for the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) at the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority.
- Over eight years in environmental and social auditing, compliance of investment projects with environmental, occupational health and safety and social requirements including assessing safe chemical management.
- BSc in Biology and an MSc in Environmental Science, specializing in Natural Resource Management.

Past Participant

Thobile Mbatha, South Africa

BIO

- Superintendent Metallurgist at Sibanye-Stillwater Refinery in Johannesburg South Africa.
- Over seven years of expertise in R&D and Process Engineering. She specializes in full-lifecycle project execution, from complex hydrometallurgical test work to commercial engineering frameworks.
- Also serves as the refinery's Automation Champion, HMM Controller, and SDS Development Champion ensuring all safety requirements are in pace and comply with the Occupational Health Safety Act.

Classifying and Labelling Chemicals According to the UN GHS

Classifier et étiqueter les produits chimiques conformément au SGH de l'ONU

21 Sept. - 6 Dec. 2026

July 2026

GHS PARTNERSHIP

International Labour Organization | OECD | unitar

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Institute for Training and Research

- UNITAR is a dedicated training arm of the United Nations system.
- UNITAR was established in 1963 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Chemical and Waste Management Programme

- **Technical Assistance & Capacity Building:** Development of training materials, guidance, strategies, and tools.
- Eg. Assessments and Strategies for GHS Implementation

- **Policy and Strategy Development:** Assist countries to develop policies, plans, and legislation.
- Eg. Model GHS legislation developed by UNITAR

- **Development of Curricula and Training Programmes:** Adapted to the learning needs and realities of countries and stakeholders.
- Eg. GHS Course >10 years; In-person trainings.

Learning objectives

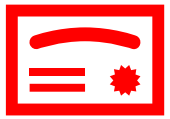
- ✓ Learn how to describe the international policy framework for the GHS and international chemicals management.
- ✓ Apply GHS criteria in classifying physical, health and environmental hazards.
- ✓ Select appropriate hazard communication elements.
- ✓ Develop effective hazard communication strategies adapted to specific contexts.

- ✓ Décrire le cadre politique international pour le SGH et la gestion internationale des produits chimiques ;
- ✓ Appliquer les critères du SGH pour classer les dangers physiques, sanitaires et environnementaux ;
- ✓ Choisir les éléments de communication des dangers appropriés ;
- ✓ Élaborer des stratégies efficaces de communication des dangers adaptées à des contextes spécifiques.

Enroll now to gain expert knowledge!

E-Learning Course

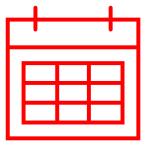
English, French, Spanish



Certificate: >70% on each test and open question

Digital Certificates available from this upcoming edition!

Self-paced within modules



11 weeks

GHS Course Tutors – French and Spanish

Olivier Kervella

Fabian Benzo

GHS Course Tutors - English

Dr. Helmut Fleig

Kimberley Headrick

Course Content

Consists of 4 modules delivered over 11 weeks (approximately 75 learning hours):

Module 1

15 September – 21 September

Introduction, scientific and regulatory principles, hazard classification, and hazard communication

Available from **September 15, 2025**

Activities: 14 Progress: 0 / 2

Module 2

22 September – 21 October

Classification of physical hazards

Available from **September 22, 2025**

Activities: 31 Progress: 1 / 4

Final Exam

13 November – 28 November

Available from **November 13, 2025**

Activities: 7 Progress: 0 / 1

Module 3

15 October – 5 November

Classification of health hazards

Available from **October 15, 2025**

Activities: 24 Progress: 0 / 2

Module 4

6 November – 12 November

Classification of environmental hazards

Available from **November 6, 2025**

Activities: 15 Progress: 0 / 2

Additional Resources

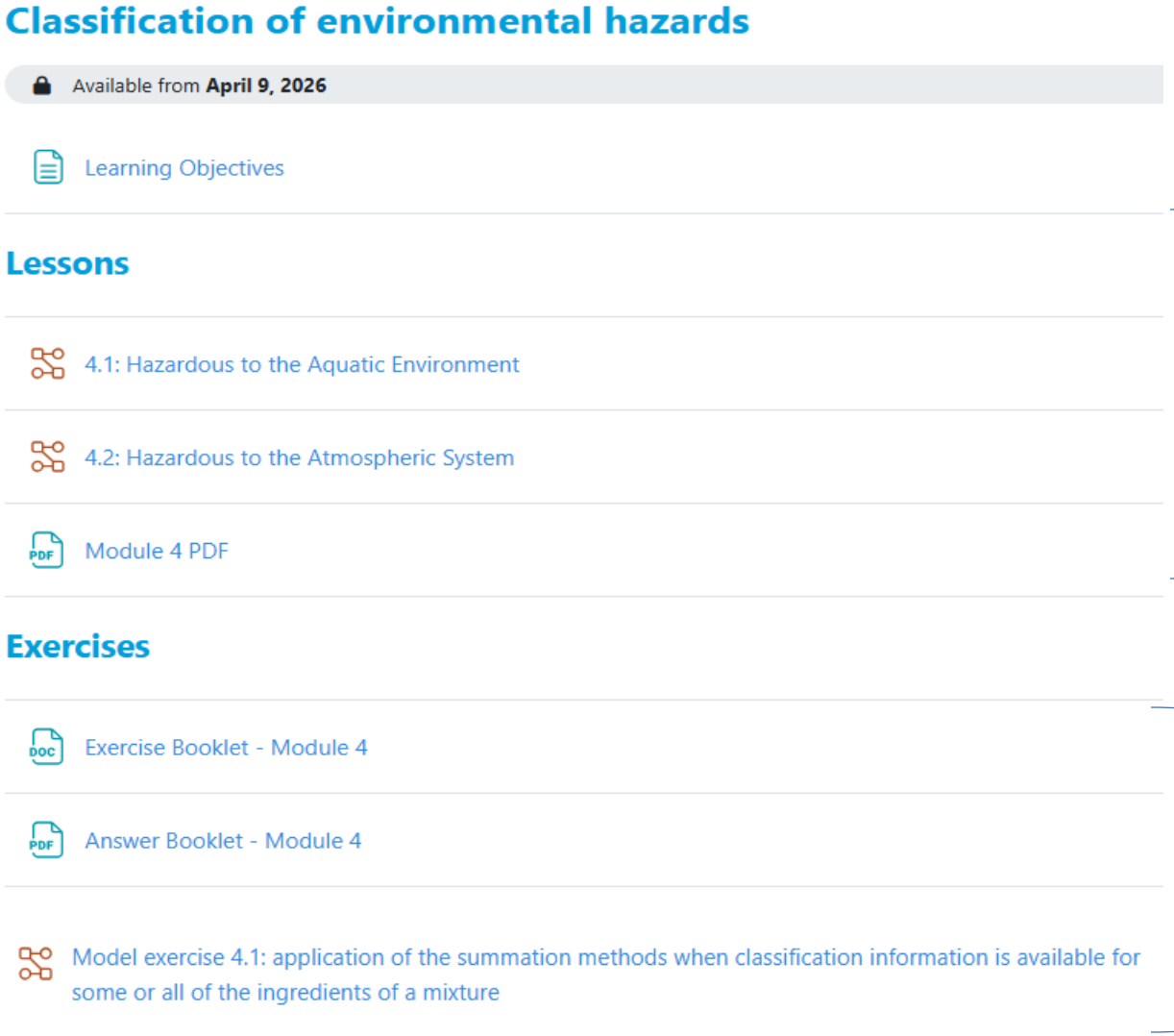
Activities: 29

General Forums

Activities: 4

Inside a Module: Materials

The course offers materials designed to support theoretical understanding and practical application.



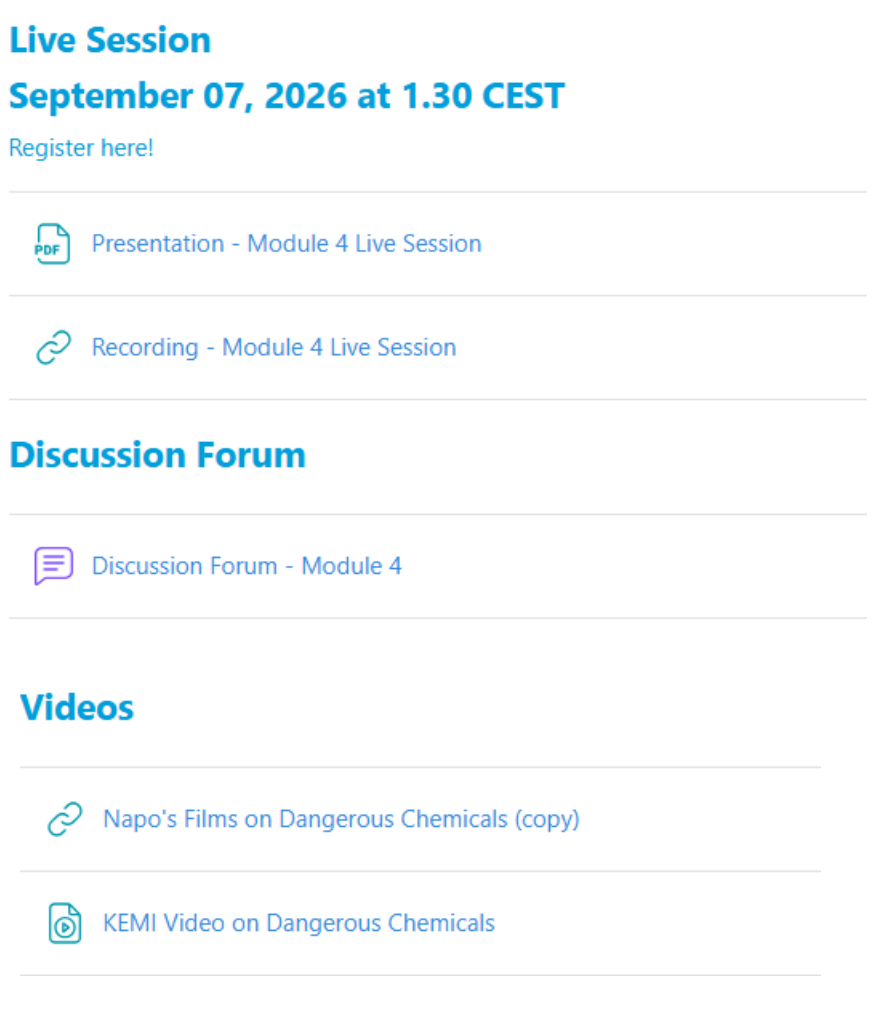
Lessons

Provide core knowledge.
Materials are accessible online and downloadable.

Exercises

Optional practice exercises and interactive model exercises
Allow participants to apply concepts.
Answer keys included.

Inside a Module: Interactive and AV materials



Webinars

Interactive sessions with tutors
Allows for questions on the GHS; assistance with exercises

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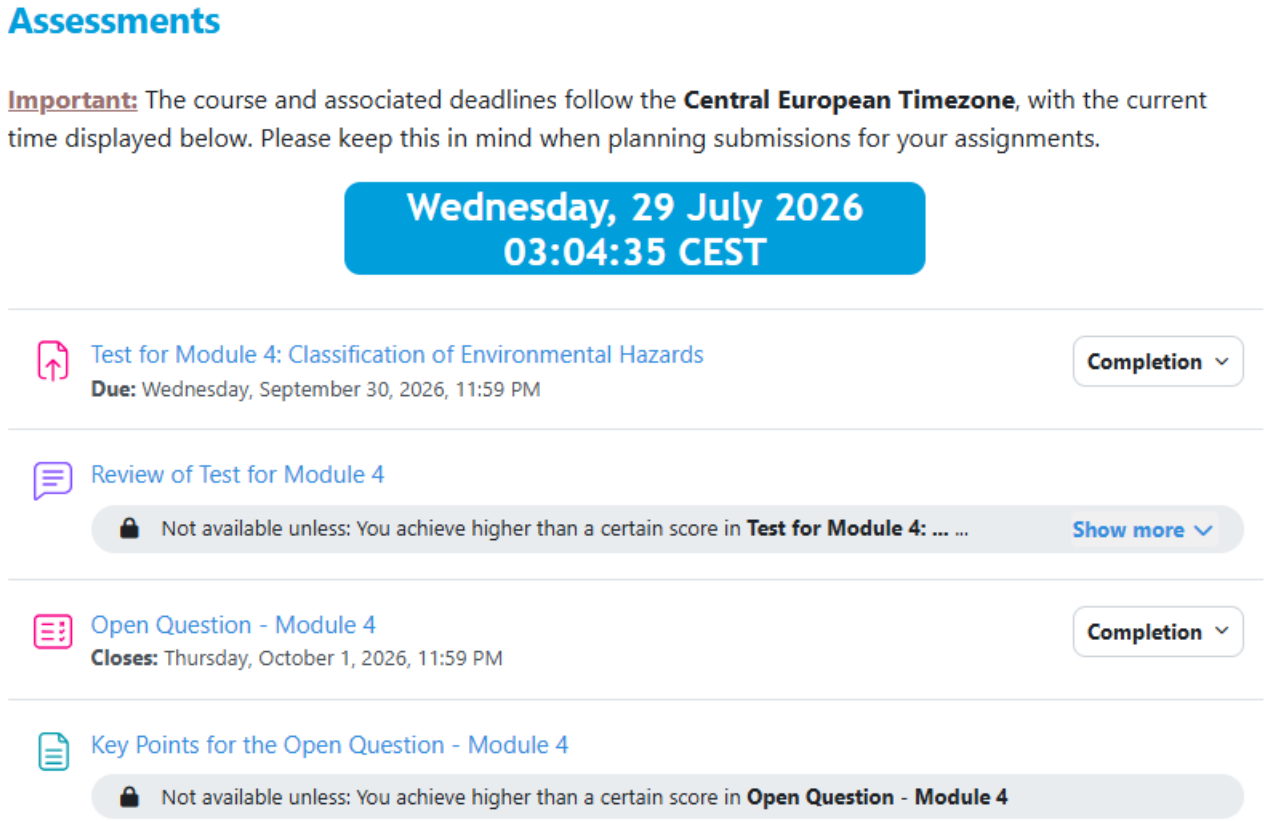
Discussion Forums

Engage with peers and tutors.
Open throughout course.

Video Materials

Additional materials to explain concepts, exercises and other key topics.

Inside a Module: Assessments



Assessments

Tests and Open Questions

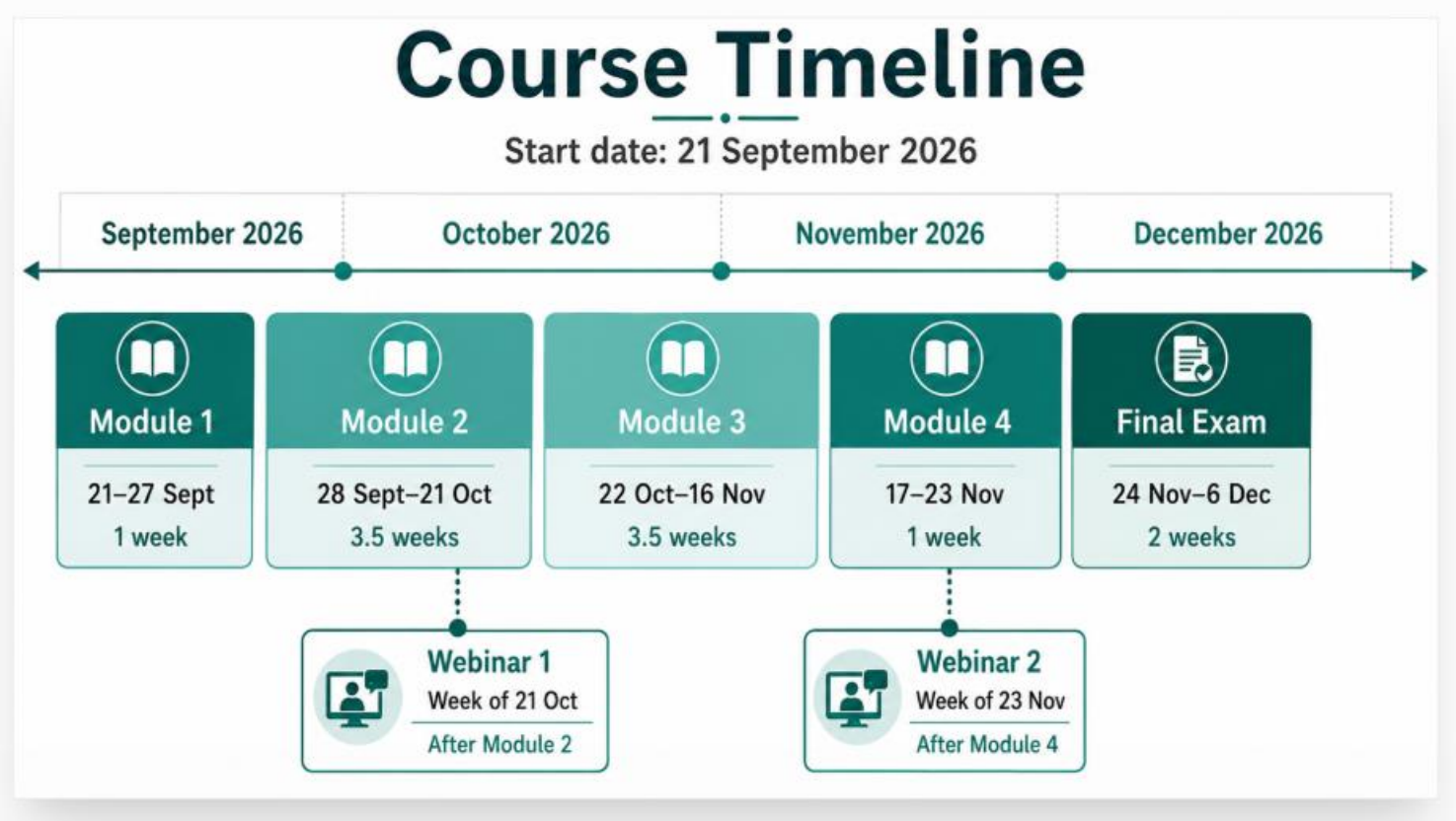
Individual feedback from tutors

To gain certificate:

>70% on each test

Pass open question

Useful tools: Timeline and checklist



Prepare for your GHS Couse

Read useful information and document

Read News Forum

Introduce Yourself

Module 1

Read Module 1 and download Module 1 PDF

Post in Discussion Forum - Module 1

Pass Test for Module 1: Introduction

Pass Open Question - Module 1

Module 2

Read Module 2 and download Module 2 PDF

Exercise Booklet - Module 2

Post in Discussion Forum - Module 2

Pass Test for Module 2: Classification of Physical Hazards

Pass Open Questions - Module 2

Attend live session

Module 3

Read Module 3 and Download Module 3 PDF

Use Exercise Booklet and Model exercises

Post in Discussion Forum - Module 3

Do Module 3 test

Pass Open Questions - Module 3

Attend live session

Module 4

Read Module 4 and download Module 4 PDF

Use Exercise Booklet and Model exercises

Post in Discussion Forum - Module 4

Do Module 4 Test

Pass Open Question - Module 4

Attend live session

View Additional Resources

Final Exam

Tell us your opinion

Download the UN GHS Certificate

Costs and special packages

Fees & Registration

Course fee: $1,000
Group Discounts: Available upon request

Register online via the QR code, or link here https://gqr.sh/BHu2

Special Packages

- 3 – 5 persons from the same organization or group
  - Per-person discounts
- 6 – 9 persons
  - Deeper per-person discounts
- 10+ persons
  - Free webinar or in-person session for your organization with GHS experts
  - Registration must still occur individually to access the course platform
  - We can issue organizational invoices/quotes and accept bank transfers or credit card payments
  - Email ghs@unitar.org with the details

FAQ: Are scholarships available?

Answer: There are a limited number of scholarships available during certain editions of the course.

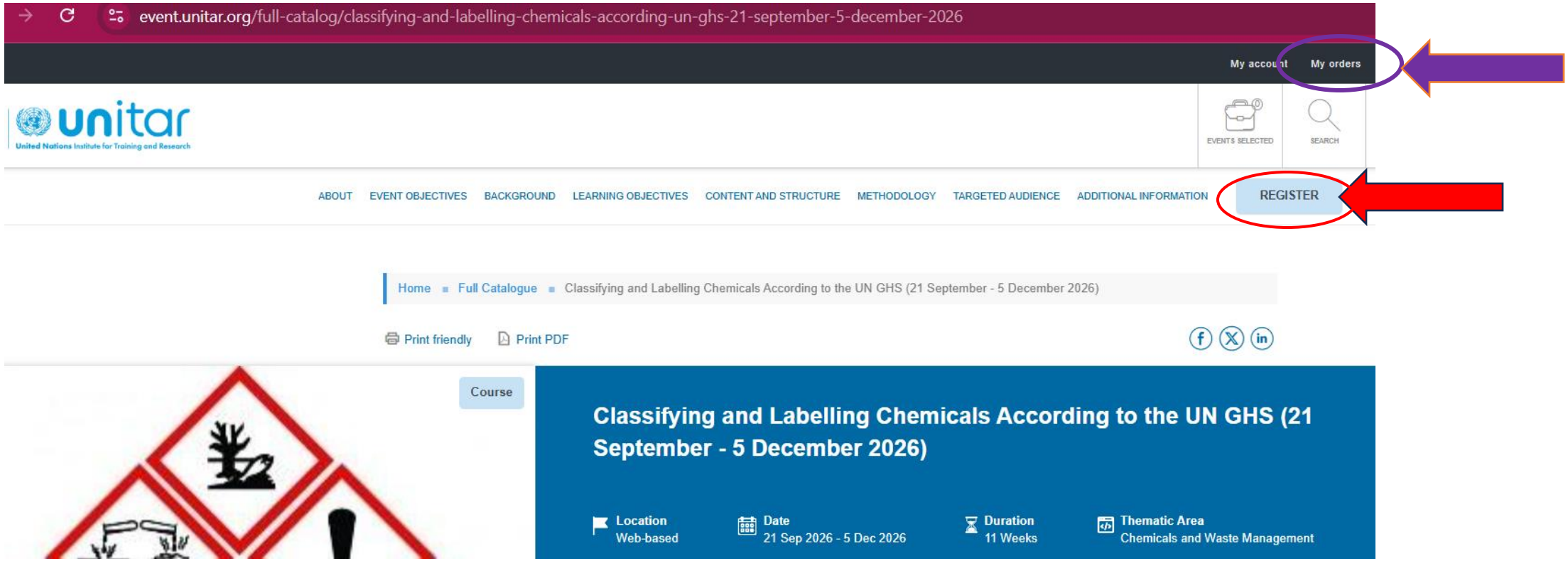
To apply for scholarships, you are required to mail your name, qualifications, background, motivation and need for scholarship to ghs@unitar.org;

However, given the limited number of scholarships, the following may be useful instead:

1. Discounts available to groups
2. GFC Focal Points are also given discounts if nominated through their national Focal Point and communicated to the GFC Secretariat.

FAQ: What type of payments are accepted?

Answer: You may pay either by credit card or bank transfer upon registration. For those who have specials and discounts, you need to select bank transfer for us to apply the relevant discounts.



FAQ: Knowledge needed before the course

Answer: As this is an advanced and technical course, participants are expected to have a solid knowledge in natural sciences and in mathematics (for rather non-advanced equations, e.g., see sub-section 2.4.4.2 in the Purple Book, p.66),

Some experience with non-GHS classification systems and/or in hazard/risk assessments will also be helpful, but is not mandatory.

FAQ: Who and how can professionals benefit from the GHS?

Answer: The course targets the following groups and individuals:

- GHS competent authorities
- Civil servants in national ministries, provincial departments, and local authorities ("regulators")
- Environmental and occupational safety managers in the private sector
- Private sector employees responsible for hazard assessment/classification and preparing labels and safety data sheets
- Civil society organizations interested in consumer safety, chemicals management, or right-to-know
- Faculty members, lab staff, researchers, and students

*Responses to Questions on youth and others

Course Tutor

Dr. Helmut Fleig

BIO

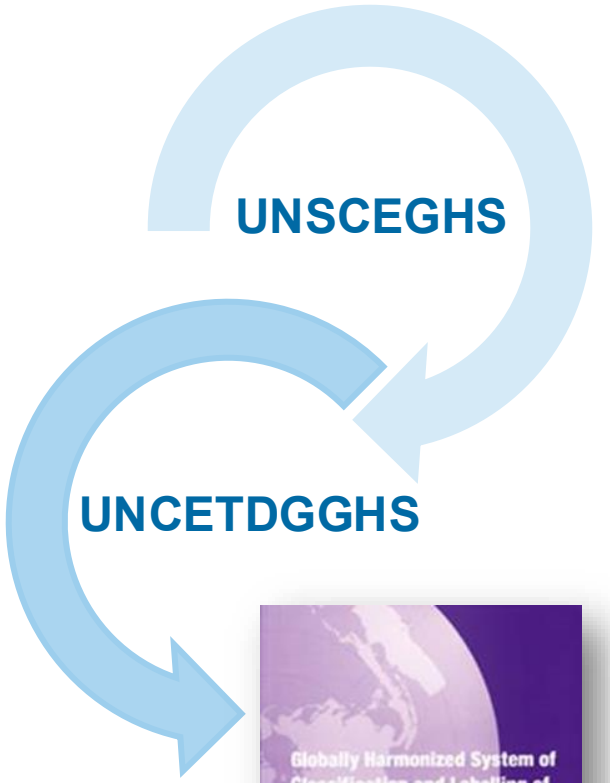
- Dr. Helmut Fleig has worked in the areas of toxicology, product safety, classification and labelling and risk assessments.
- Dr. Fleig has participated in the GHS development process at the OECD and UN since 1994; he has been engaged in the developed of EU-CLP guidance and in the preparation of the UNITAR GHS Courses.
- He is a member of the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS, including several Correspondence Groups and a nominated GHS expert of UNITAR.

FAQ: What are the changes made in the most recent GHS edition and how is the GHS updated?

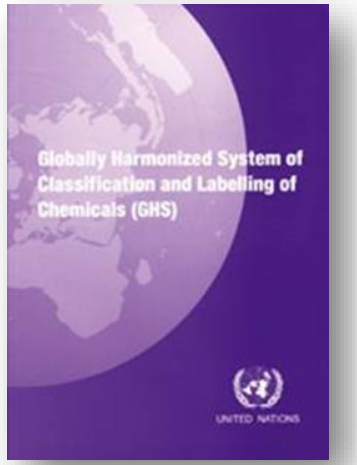
UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS meets twice a year

The UN Committee of Experts on TDG and GHS meets every other year in order to adopt amendments

New edition every other year



Suggestions for amendments



GHS Rev.11 was adopted in 2024, and released in 2025

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Q: How is it possible to accommodate and ensure effective enforcement of GHS among multiple authorities?

6. Organizational considerations

Countries undertaking GHS capacity building and implementation should consider the most effective means for coordinating the various activities and efforts necessary for introducing and integrating the GHS into the national system. This section describes the formation of a National GHS Coordinating Committee, its function, and potential structures to facilitate GHS implementation.

6.1 National GHS Coordinating Committee

Successful implementation of the GHS can be facilitated by effective coordination of relevant sectors and stakeholders and the activities in which they are involved. This can reduce duplication of efforts and serve to improve consistency and coordination in overall chemical hazard management in a country. Because of the number of people potentially involved in GHS implementation, establishing a coordinating infrastructure is a helpful way to frame the development of a GHS implementation strategy. This infrastructure serves to ensure that communication is ongoing between the actor groups (government, business and industry, and civil society); across the four sectors (including consideration of cross-sectoral issues); and between stakeholders.

Key to the success of the GHS implementation strategy is ensuring sound coordination of the many tasks and activities involved in strategy development. Therefore, it may be useful to form a national GHS coordination or implementation committee (or designate a relevant existing committee to include GHS implementation in their work programme). The committee can include representatives of stakeholder groups and government ministries representing the four sectors (workplace, agriculture, transport and consumer products), as well as other related ministries essential to the implementation process (such as environment, foreign affairs, health, standards, finance, trade and customs, among others). The exact composition of the committee will depend on each country's particular circumstances.

https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/planet/our-portfolio/globally-harmonized-system-classification-and-labelling-chemicals

Questions

Please use the Q and A box!

FAQ: Are there any free GHS resources?

Answer: Yes, there are numerous free resources available!

FILM 3 – PART I

This short video (part I and part II) introduces the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS) and its relation to Agriculture. Part I introduces the importance and relevance of GHS to pesticides, and part II provides information on implementation of the GHS at international, regional, and national levels.

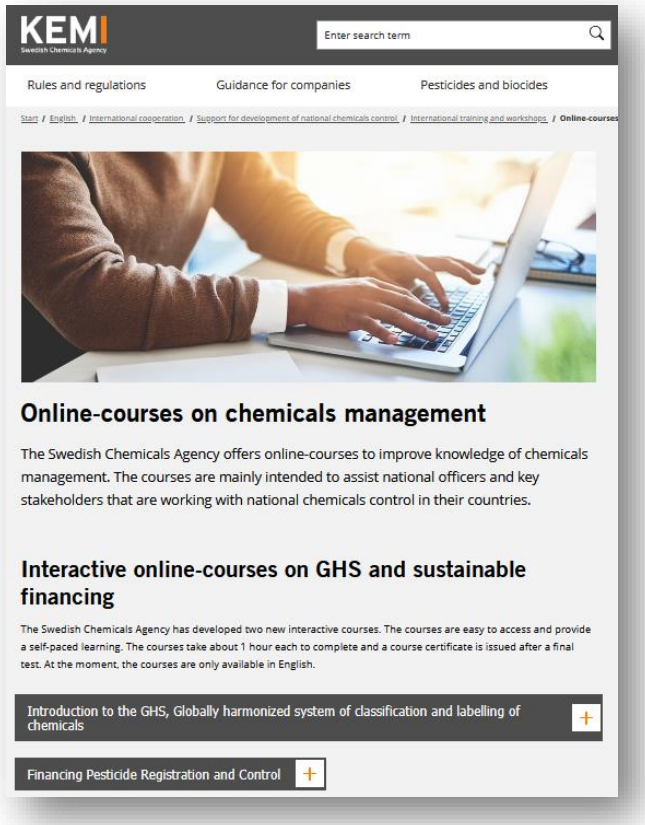
TRAINING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- GHS Model Legislation (English)
- GHS Model Legislation (Spanish)
- Relevance of the GHS to Plastics and Associated Chemicals;
- Developing a National GHS Implementation Strategy;
- Understanding the GHS: A Companion Guide to the Purple Book;
- A GHS scheme in the IOMC Toolbox;
- GHS e-Learning course, run twice a year;
- The GHS roster of experts;
- GHS webinars;
- Other resources under the Global Partnership to Implement the GHS.

This includes free periodic technical-based webinars with our experts.

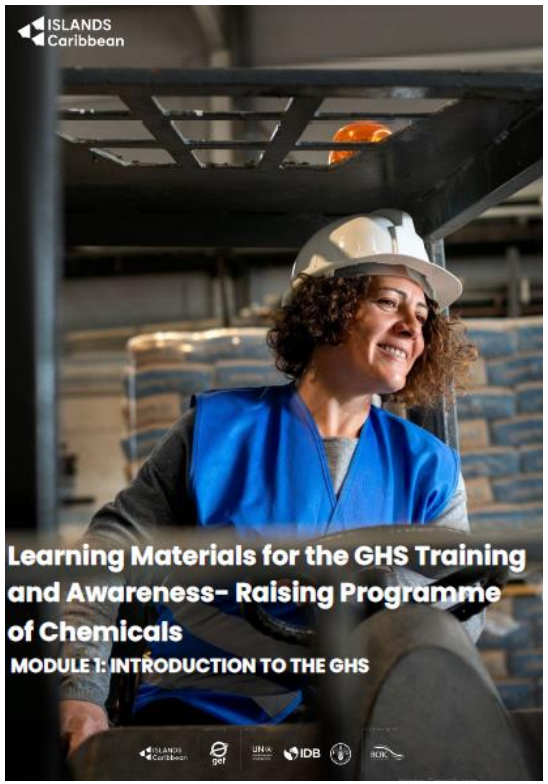
Training of trainers, and sessions with companies and individuals are at a cost based on the requirements.

Other GHS resources links



www.kemi.se/en/international-cooperation/support-for-development-of-national-chemicals-control/international-training-and-workshops/online-courses

*KemI course to soon become KemI-UNITAR course in ENG, SP and FR



See the Digital Learning Hub for access!

Other Chemicals and Waste courses

Risk Reduction of Chemicals

- Risks, Chemicals
- Self-paced
- 45 minutes
- Syllabus
- Introductory video
- How to access
- English
- Free course

Waste Management and Circular Economy

- Waste, Economy
- Self-paced
- 6 hours
- Syllabus: EN, ES, PT
- How to access: EN, ES, PT
- English, Spanish, Portuguese
- Free course

Nanomaterials Safety

- Nanomaterials, Health
- Self-paced
- 45 minutes
- Syllabus
- How to access
- English
- Free course

https://cwcourses.unitar.org/

Thank you.

For more information, or further inquiries such as group rates and technical support. contact:
ghs@unitar.org

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