

How the GHS supports occupational safety and health

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- Background on development of the OSHA HCS and UN GHS
- Hazard communication in the workplace
- OSHA's alignment with the UN GHS

Background on UN GHS and OSHA HCS

Beginnings of modern workplace hazard communication

- United Nations
 - UNECE
 - Transport of Dangerous Goods
- International Labor Organization
 - Framework through convention and recommendations
 - Basics of ICSC
- United States
 - Right to work – state laws (predating OSHA HCS)
 - Hazard Communication Standard (HCS)
 - Work at the UN to develop the GHS

UN Effort on Hazard Communication

- UN GHS (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals)
 - First edition issued in 2002
- Internationally negotiated approach to hazard communication. It provides:
 - Harmonized definitions of hazards
 - Specific criteria for labels
 - Harmonized format for safety data sheets
- 3 basic areas of focus:
 - Classification of physical hazards
 - Classification of health and environmental hazards
 - Hazard communication
- Living document; Updated every biennium (currently working on revision 11)

Overarching GHS/Hazard Communication Concepts

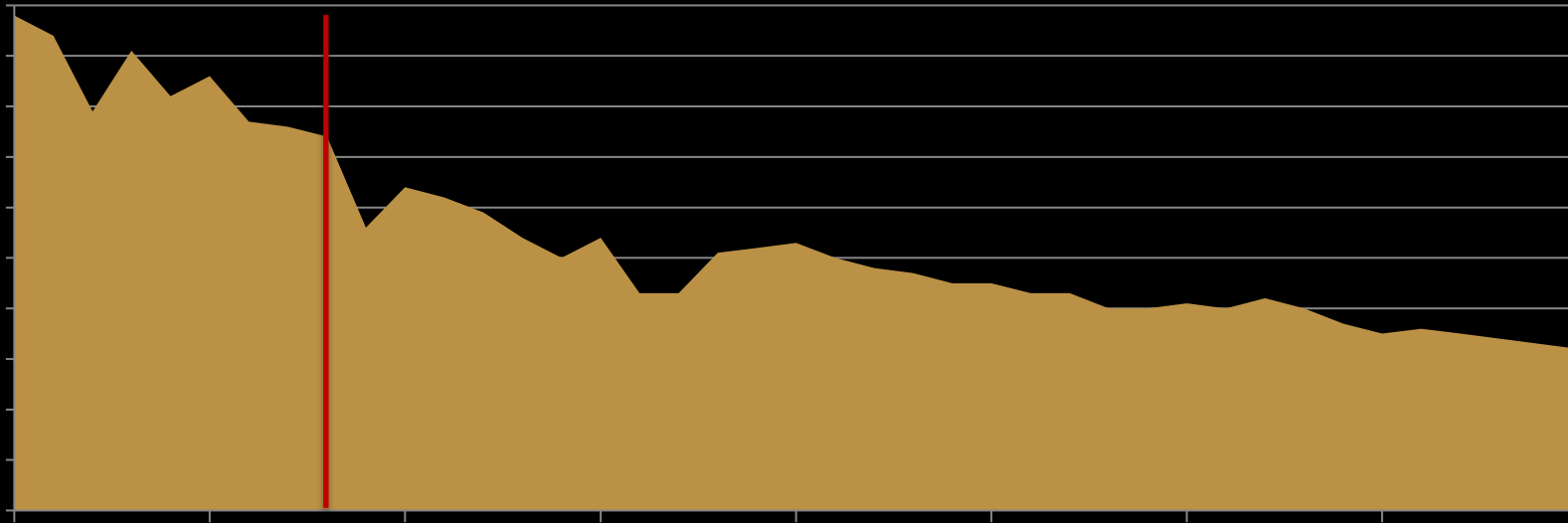
- International tri-partite agreement – built on finding consensus
 - Level the playing field for workers across the globe
 - Supports international trade
- Life-cycle approach to communication hazard through use of a more unified approach for SDSs and labels
 - Workplace, consumer, environmental information
 - Provides information to workers on aggregate exposures, cumulative risk
- Improvements made over time based on real-life experience through implementation and advancements in science
 - GHS relies on sound, settled science

OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard

- 1970 – recommendation for Department of Labor to promulgate regulation requiring employers to inform workers of hazardous workplace chemicals
- 1983 – OSHA promulgated first Hazard Communication Standard
 - Updated again in 1994
- 2012 – aligned OSHA HCS with the UN GHS (rev. 3)
 - Became known as the “right to understand”
- 2024 – align with UN GHS rev. 7, some rev. 8
 - Includes expanded use of non-animal test methods
 - New hazard classes
 - Updated precautionary statements

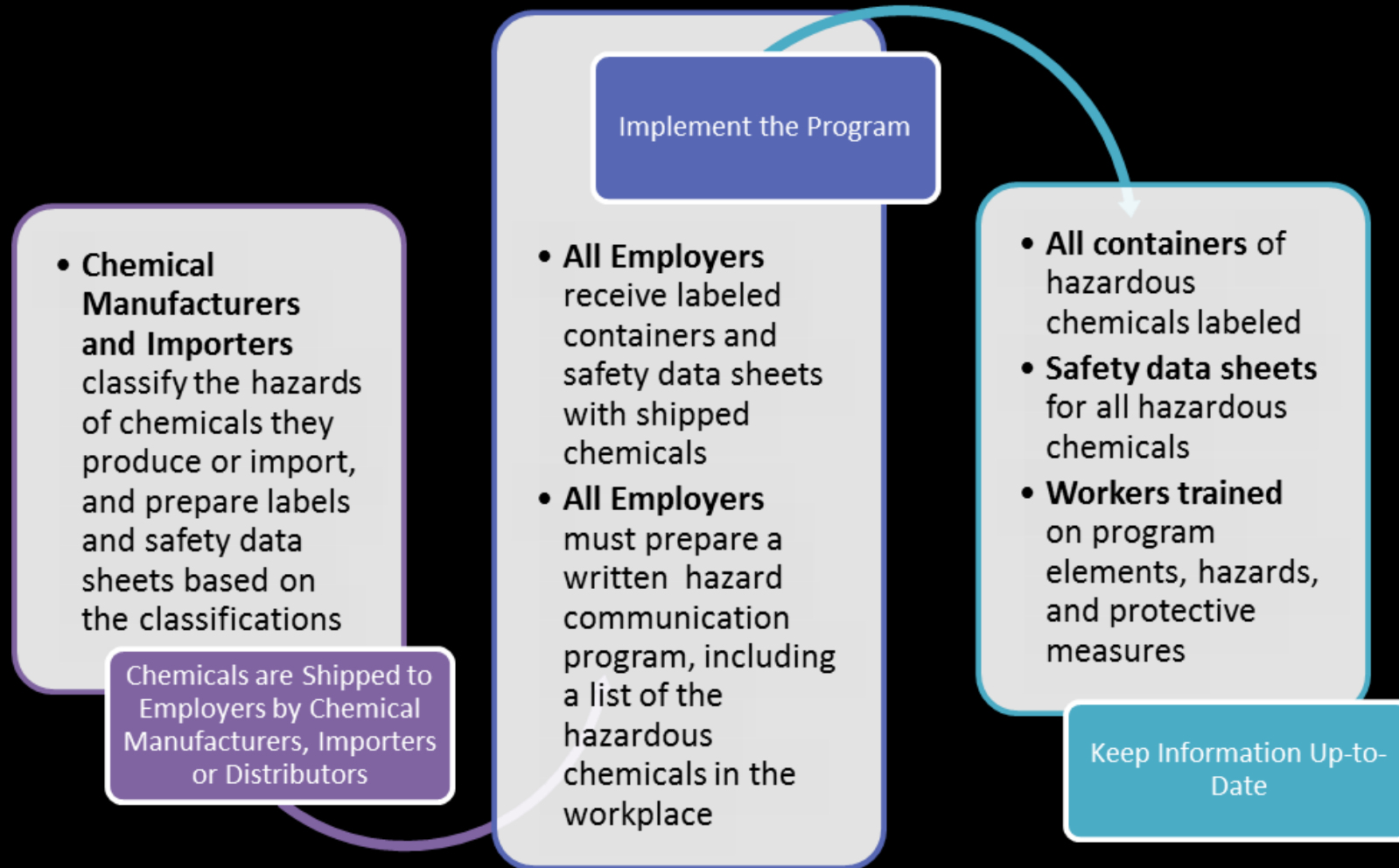
Hazard communication in the workplace

- Implementation of hazard communication has been a game changer in the workplace



- Basics of hazard communication are fairly straight forward
 - Identify hazard
 - Effectively communicate hazard

How Hazard Communication Works



Concepts within the Updated HCS

- Hazard communication should be “evergreen”
 - Updates based in large part on learnings from implementation
- Occupational behavior science and education are key components to hazard communication
- Aggregate exposures are important factors in identifying and communicating hazards
 - Leads to better risk assessment and management
- Hazard communication is a key element of an overarching EHS strategy and is fundamental to Occupational Safety and Health

Sustainable EHS Strategies

