



ghs

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GHS - Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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European Commission Adopted Proposal

On 27th of June 2007, the European Commission has adopted the “Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, and amending Directive 67/548/EEC and Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006” (COM(2007) 355 final). The proposed act aligns the EU system of classification, labelling and packaging substances and mixtures to the United Nations Globally Harmonised System (GHS). It is expected to facilitate global trade and harmonised communication of hazard information of chemicals and to promote regulatory efficiency. It will complement the new REACH Regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals. The proposed Regulation will be discussed by the European Parliament and the Council under the co-decision procedure.

The proposal incorporates the classification criteria and labelling rules agreed at UN level, the so called Globally Harmonised System of classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS). It will introduce new classification criteria, hazard symbols (pictograms) and labelling phrases, while taking account of elements which are part of the current EU legislation.

The proposed regulation requires companies to classify, label and package appropriately their substances and mixtures before placing them on the market. It aims to protect workers, consumers and the environment by means of labelling which reflects possible hazardous effects of a particular chemical.

The proposed regulation also takes over provisions of the REACH Regulation regarding the notification of classifications, the establishment of a list of harmonised classifications and the creation of a classification and labelling inventory.

The proposal will undergo co-decision, seeking agreement of the European Parliament and the Council. After entry into force the deadline for substance


reclassification is proposed to be 1 December 2010 and for mixtures 1 June 2015.

There are further acts related to the proposed Regulation which are foreseen for Commission adoption this summer. The purpose of these acts will be to adapt classification-based provisions in existing EU legislation (“downstream legislation”) to the new rules.

The EN, FR and DE language versions of the “Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, and amending Directive 67/548/EEC and Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006” and of the executive summary of the Commission impact assessment (SEC(2007) 853) can be found below; the full Commission impact assessment (SEC(2007) 854) is available in English.

All language versions of the proposed Regulation and of the executive summary of the Commission impact assessment will be made available in Eur-Lex in the coming weeks.


English version

[Volume I - EN](#)  

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[Executive summary of the Commission Impact Assessment – EN](#) 

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French version

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German version

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Implementing the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in Community Legislation

GHS - From Johannesburg to brussels

The GHS is the United Nations [Globally Harmonised System](#) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. Being developed at UN level, the GHS provides a harmonised basis for globally uniform environmental, health and safety information on hazardous chemical substances and mixtures.

In its Plan of Implementation, adopted in Johannesburg on 4 September 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development encouraged countries to implement the harmonised system until 2008. The European Commission, the EU Member States and stakeholders from industry and non-governmental organisations endorsed the UN recommendation to implement the GHS in domestic law. On 29 October 2003, the European

Commission stated in the explanatory memorandum to the proposed amendment of Directive 67/548/EEC, adopted at the same time as the REACH proposal, that it would come forward with the corresponding proposal.

The Commission Services Directorate-General (DG) Enterprise & Industry and DG Environment with technical support from DG JRC have drafted a proposal for a Regulation which would introduce the GHS criteria in Community law. In accordance with the Commission's commitment to better regulation, the Commission Services have undertaken a public consultation on this draft proposal from 21 August till 21 October 2006. The GHS draft Regulation and related documents as presented in the consultation. It can be found on the [GHS consultation website](#) of DG Enterprise & Industry.

When adopted by the legislator, the GHS Regulation will repeal the currently existing EU Directives on classification and labelling, i.e. Directive 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, after a transitional period.

Documents and links:

- Technical Assistance to the European Commission on the Implementation of the GHS - [Final report \(Ökopol study\)](#) 

[Annex 1:](#) List of documents 

[Annex 2:](#) Synopsis - Section I - Structural elements 

[Annex 3:](#) Synopsis - Section II - Classification 

[Annex 4:](#) Synopsis - Section II - Hazard communication 

[Annex 5:](#) Issues beyond scope 

[Annex 6:](#) Additional guidance on the GHS 

[Annex 7:](#) Cut-off values 

[Annex 8:](#) Classification of preparations - methodological elements 

[Annex 9:](#) List of documents on changes in GHS 

- [Comparison between EU and GHS Criteria - Human Health and Environment](#) 

- [European Chemicals Bureau \(ECB\) - Classification & Labelling](#)

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