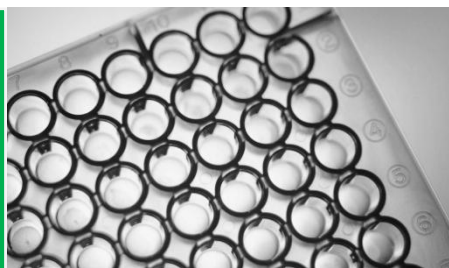


GHS Implementation in China, Korea and Japan 2011

中日韩 GHS 实施情况 2011 年



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GHS Implementation in China, Korea and Japan 2011

In 2011, China, South Korea and Japan have all implemented "Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)" promoted by UN to harmonize rules for the classification, labelling and safety data sheets of chemicals at national, regional and worldwide level.

As an international agreement GHS is non-legally binding in the member countries of United Nations. Thus many countries and regions have published their own regulations or standards to implement GHS. For example, the GHS criteria were introduced into Europe via the Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on the **Classification, Labeling and Packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP)** in 2008.

China, Korea and Japan have published their own laws or standards to implement GHS in their own countries. In this article we will summarize the latest progress of GHS implementation in those countries and compare the difference between those countries.

GHS related laws and regulations in China, Korea and Japan

Country	Laws and Regulations
• China	<p>Main laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Regulations on safe management of hazardous chemicals (2011) - requiring GHS sds and label for hazardous chemical substances.- The Measures on Environmental Administration of New Chemical Substances (2010)- requiring GHS classification data and sds for new chemical substances. <p>Classification standards:</p> <p><i>GB 20576 ~ GB 20602-2006 - "Safety rules for classification, precautionary labeling and precautionary statements of chemicals " - based on UN-GHS 2003 1st edition.</i></p> <p><i>GB 13690-2009 - "General rules for classification and hazard communication of chemicals";</i></p> <p>Labelling standards:</p> <p><i>GB 15258-2009 – "General rules for precautionary label for chemicals";</i></p> <p><i>GB 190-2009 - "Packaging Labels for Dangerous goods";</i></p> <p><i>GB/T 22234-2008 - "Labeling of Chemicals Based on GHS";</i></p>

	<p>Safety Data Sheet:</p> <p><i>GB/T 16483 -2008 - "Safety data sheet for chemical products: Content and order of sections".</i></p> <p>More info about those standards...</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Korea 	<p>Main Laws:</p> <p>- Industrial Safety & Health Act - requiring GHS classification and labelling for chemicals that meet GHS hazard criteria;</p> <p>- Toxic Chemicals Control Act - requiring GHS classification and labelling for toxic chemicals;</p> <p>Standards:</p> <p><i>Public Notice No 2008-01 - Standard of Classification Labeling and MSDS of Chemicals.</i></p> <p><i>Public Notice No 2008-26 - Regulation for Classification & Labeling of Toxic Chemicals.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan 	<p>Main Laws:</p> <p>- Industrial Safety and Health Law (ISHL) - requiring GHS classification data and labelling for ISHL listed substances(~640 substances);</p> <p>CSCL has required label for Class II Specified Chemical Substances. PRTR law requires MSDS for over 400 substances. Poisonous and Deleterious Substances Control Law (PDSCL) has required MSDS for over 300 substances. Even though those laws did not mention GHS, GHS SDS and labels are recommended.</p> <p>Standards:</p> <p>- GHS classification (JISZ7252);</p> <p>- MSDS (JISZ7250);</p> <p>- labelling (JISZ7251).</p>

GHS Implementation Timeline for China, Korea and Japan

Country	Important Timeline
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China 	<p>31 May 2011</p> <p><i>This is the day when the transitional period for the three compulsory GHS national standards GB 13690-2009, GB 15258-2009, and GB 190-2009 end. All chemicals or mixtures placed on Chinese market shall be classified and labeled in accordance with those standards from 1 June 2011.</i></p> <p>1 Dec 2011</p> <p>This is the day when Regulations on safe management of hazardous chemicals (2011) comes into force. From 1 Dec 2011, companies who fail to provide GHS compliant SDS and labels for hazardous chemicals might face a maximum penalty of 50,000 yuan or even a ban on production or import;</p> <p>The current Catalog of Hazardous Chemicals (2002) contains more than 3,700 chemicals.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The deadline 31 May 2011 applies to almost all classified substances and mixtures placed on Chinese market. However, only failure to classify and label hazardous chemical substances might lead to legal penalties.</p> <p>Latest Trends</p> <p>Chinese government has prioritized mandatory GHS classification and labelling for hazardous chemicals. We expect the government to publish a new Catalog of Hazardous Chemicals soon. This new Catalog might include harmonized classification data that Chinese companies must use to prepare their GHS compliant SDS and labels.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korea 	<p>1 July 2010</p> <p>The grace period for mandatory GHS classification and labelling for substances that meet GHS hazard criteria ends. This deadline is set by the Public Notice No 2008-29.</p> <p>1 July 2011</p> <p>The grace period for mandatory GHS classification and labelling for toxic substances regulated under TCCA. This deadline is set by the Public Notice No 2008-26.</p> <p>1 July 2013</p> <p>This is the day when the transition period for mandatory GHS</p>

	<p>classification and labelling for mixtures ends. This deadline is set by both public notice mentioned above.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>GHS classification and labelling is mandatory for almost all chemicals that meet GHS classification criteria in Korea.</p> <p>Latest Trends</p> <p>On 23 May 2011 the Ministry of Korea(MOE) has published harmonized classifications for a list of 615 substances for public consultations, among which 500 chemicals are toxic chemicals. As from 1 July 2011, it will be mandatory for companies to use those classifications to prepare their SDS and chemical labels for toxic chemicals.</p> <p>The list is available here:</p> <p>http://ncis.nier.go.kr/ghs/ghs_info/temp_menu.jsp</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan 	<p>1 Dec 2006</p> <p>Amended ISHL implementing GHS came into force, requiring mandatory GHS classification data and label for around 640 chemicals regulated by ISHL.</p> <p>31 Dec 2010</p> <p>The grace period for the new MSDS standard(JIS Z 7250:2005) ends. The old Japanese format(JIS Z 7250:2000) will no longer be used.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>ISHL is the only law requiring GHS compliant label and MSDS in Japan. This requirement only applies to around 640 designated substances only. Other laws have also required MSDS and label for hundreds of other regulated substances, but not all substances. However, we strongly suggest that all chemicals and mixtures placed on the Japanese market come with MSDS and labels that have been prepared in accordance with relevant national standards.</p> <p>Latest Trends</p> <p>Japanese government has kept classifying substances in accordance with GHS criteria. Up to 1 June 2011, GHS classifications for 2,231 substances have been published. However, it is not mandatory for industry to use those classification data.</p> <p>The list is available from:</p>

<http://www.safe.nite.go.jp/ghs/list.html>

GHS Building Blocks in China, Korea and Japan

Each country or region can choose which hazard classes and categories to implement from UN-GHS in their legislation. This approach is called building blocks approach, which makes GHS slightly different in each country. Besides, the constant change of UN-GHS has caused inconsistency between the latest version of UN-GHS and GHS in those countries.

Country	Building Blocks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China 	<p>The following hazard classes and categories from UN-GHS are not adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - specific target organ systemic toxicity single exposure category 3; - aspiration hazard category 1 and 2; <p>Other differences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acute toxicity for (inhalation) gases category 4 and 5. Threshold value is 5000 ppm, not 20000ppm; - simplified label; - black frame of pictogram is also acceptable;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korea 	<p>The following hazard classes and categories from UN-GHS are not adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flammable liquids category 4; - acute toxicity category 5; - skin corrosion/irritation category 3; - acute aquatic toxicity category 2 and 3;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan 	<p>The following hazard classes and categories from UN-GHS are not adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acute toxicity category 5; - skin corrosion/irritation category 3; - aspiration hazard category 2;

Note 1: EU CLP regulation has adopted all building blocks and features of the latest version of UN-GHS (3rd revised version). Beside that it has added its own features. For example, CLP has one more hazard category than UN-GHS: harmful to the ozone layer. It has also carried the old tradition of DSD/DPD to limit the number of p-statements in a label to 6. Those features make EU GHS slightly different from GHS in China, Korea and Japan.

However, **CLP label** is a very good example of explaining the main elements of a GHS label. **REACH and CLP compliant SDS** showcases the format and content of a good GHS SDS even though identified uses, registration number and exposure scenarios are not needed in the SDS in China, Korea and Japan.

About the Author

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Special comments from the author:

Chinese government is doing the worst job among three countries to make relevant information available to companies based outside of China. Most of laws, regulations or guidance documents only have Chinese version. I have seen many companies exaggerating the impact of relevant laws on foreign companies with a purpose of selling their translated version of those laws and regulations. The quality of such translation cannot be guaranteed either if the translator has little knowledge about chemical regulations or GHS.

Besides, most of Chinese GHS national standards (classification, labelling SDS) are translated directly from UN-GHS. There is really no need to pay to get an English copy because UN-GHS is the best translation and it is entirely free.

Before you decide to buy such translated documents, please consult us first about whether this regulation will be relevant to you and where to get a free copy of the translation if possible

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