

# Suppliers and users of workplace hazardous chemicals – transition to GHS 7

**On 1 January 2021, a two-year transition period from the 3rd revised edition of the GHS (GHS 3) to the 7th revised edition of the GHS (GHS 7) started.**

This information sheet is for suppliers and users of workplace hazardous chemicals.

From **1 January 2021**, Australia began the transition to GHS 7 for workplace hazardous chemicals. The transition period is for two years and will end on **31 December 2022**. More information about the transition period, including special arrangements in place from 1 July 2020 onwards can be found in the information sheet on changes to workplace chemical laws in Australia at: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/changes-workplace-chemical-laws-australia-transition-ghs-7>

## What's new in GHS 7?

GHS 7 introduces several changes to classification, labelling and safety data sheet (SDS) requirements for workplace hazardous chemicals. The key changes between GHS 3 and GHS 7 are:

- new hazard categories and classes for:
  - desensitised explosives
  - pyrophoric gases
  - chemically unstable gases
  - non-flammable aerosols
- updated precautionary statements.

In addition to these changes, the definition of 'hazardous chemical' will be clarified to ensure it captures all Category 2 eye irritants. Chemicals can be further sub-categorised as Category 2A and 2B, but this is not mandatory in Australia.

## Duties of suppliers

A supplier is anyone who supplies a hazardous chemical that may be used at a workplace. This includes intermediaries in the supply chain such as distributors and wholesalers.

Suppliers of hazardous chemicals must:

- make sure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that chemicals they supply are without risks to health and safety, and
- provide SDS with hazardous chemicals.

In addition, a supplier must not supply hazardous chemicals to workplaces if they know, or ought reasonably to know, that the chemicals are not correctly labelled.

## What do suppliers need to do?

From 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022, manufacturers and importers of hazardous chemicals can classify, label and prepare SDS in accordance with either GHS 3 or GHS 7.

Chemicals manufactured or imported before 1 January 2023 can continue to be supplied indefinitely without needing to be reclassified or relabelled in accordance with GHS 7.

From 1 January 2023, suppliers should only accept stock which is classified and labelled in accordance with GHS 7 and has SDS prepared in accordance with GHS 7.

## Users of workplace hazardous chemicals

Users of hazardous chemicals are not required to re-label or dispose of existing stock.

It is okay to keep using, handling and storing hazardous chemicals labelled in accordance with GHS 3 in your workplace if the product was manufactured or imported before 1 January 2023, regardless of when it was supplied to you.

Users should not accept hazardous chemicals manufactured or imported on or after 1 January 2023 unless they are classified and labelled in accordance with GHS 7 and have SDS prepared in accordance with GHS 7.

## Further information

See our suite of guidance documents on the transition to GHS 7:  
<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/ghs-7-transition>