



**REGULATORY COOPERATION COUNCIL WORK PLAN
(Workplace Chemicals)**

Regulatory area to be addressed	<p>Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (Workplace Hazards)</p> <p>Health Canada and the United States (U.S.) Department of Labor will continue to promote ongoing collaboration on implementing the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS) in their respective jurisdictions.</p> <p>The objective is to ensure that the requirements in Canada and the U.S. for hazard classification and communication can and will be met now and in the future, to the greatest extent possible, with one label and one safety data sheet that would be acceptable in both countries, without reducing the level of safety or protection to workers.</p> <p>This work is in line with the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Health Canada and the U.S. Department of Labor.</p>
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	 United States	 Canada
Department/Agency	Department of Labor – Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)	Health Canada – Workplace Hazardous Materials Bureau (WHMB)

<p>Description:</p> <p>This work stream includes: 1) guidance development to support implementation of the GHS and understanding of interpretation of technical issues and requirements in both Canada and the U.S.; 2) coordination of common positions and participation in international discussions on the GHS; and 3) maintaining alignment on the GHS implementation.</p> <p>Canada and the U.S. will continue to prevent and reduce variances, while respecting the legislative and regulatory requirements of each country and without reducing or compromising worker health and safety.</p>
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Planned initiatives and sub-deliverables		Date
Initiative		
Stakeholder engagement on work planning	Provide a mechanism for stakeholder engagement on development of work plan	On-going (in preparation for release of work plan in Summer 2016)
Develop guidance for stakeholders	Develop compliance promotion materials (e.g., fact sheets) to assist stakeholders with GHS implementation and how to comply with requirements of the <i>Hazardous Products Regulations</i> (HPR) and the Hazard Communication Standard 2012.	3rd Quarter 2016
	Develop materials to support interpretations on regulatory and technical issues and to increase predictability for stakeholders on issues related to GHS implementation in both countries.	Ongoing; 3rd/4th Quarter 2016
	Engage stakeholders on development of joint guidance priorities.	Ongoing
	Develop Canadian technical guidance on hazard communication and classification requirements in support of suppliers (manufacturers, importers, distributors) being able to meet the HPR requirements.	Milestones associated with transition to GHS (up to June 2017)
	Coordinate, to the greatest extent possible, Canada-U.S. future updates to guidance.	Ongoing

Planned initiatives and sub-deliverables		Date
Coordinate common positions and participate in UNSCEGHS	Plan stakeholder sessions to inform stakeholders of issues prior to the UNSCEGHS international meetings and solicit feedback.	June 2016 November 2016
	Meet with working group on UNSCEGHS in advance of international meetings to create common positions, where appropriate.	Biannually
	Provide updates to stakeholders on issues that arise from the international discussions and establish a forward plan, where appropriate, considering these issues.	August 2016 January 2017
Maintain alignment on the implementation of the GHS	Within existing joint working groups, identify requirements for regulatory amendments moving forward.	Ongoing
	Communicate GHS updates to stakeholders and potential impacts for Canada and the U.S. related to alignment with the GHS Purple Book revisions.	Updates to align with the GHS Purple Book revisions (ongoing on a biennial cycle)
	Where variances occur between Canada and the U.S. regarding adoptions of future revisions of the GHS Purple Book, communicate impact and forward plan to stakeholders for specific areas.	Ongoing following publication of GHS Purple Book revisions
	Consider updates to guidance with future revisions of the Purple Book.	Ongoing