

## Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized  
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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### Implementation of the GHS:

reports on the status of implementation

## Implementation of the GHS in Switzerland

Transmitted by the observer from Switzerland

### Introduction

1. In 2006 consensus among all responsible authorities has been reached to implement GHS into Swiss legislation. In 2007 this intention was also supported by all Swiss companies which have been interviewed in the context of an [economic impact assessment](#). Thereby the implementation of the GHS, harmonised with the European Union in terms of contents, starting time and duration of the overall transition period, was considered as the most favourable option by all stakeholders. To meet these requirements the introduction of GHS in Switzerland follows a multi-step process.

### Implementation

2. In 2009 and 2010 the Swiss Chemicals Ordinance (ChemO, SR 813.11) was amended twice with a view to avoid technical trade barriers and to allow the placing of the market of chemicals that are already labelled according to GHS. Therefore an option was introduced for Swiss manufacturers/importers to classify and label their substances and mixtures (including consumer products and biocides) according to the current system or according to the GHS standard of the EC according to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008. Additionally, the amended ChemO announced already the deadlines for reclassification and labelling of substances (until 1 December 2012) and mixtures (until 1 June 2015).

3. On 7 November the Federal Council adopted a further amendment of the ChemO which entered into force on 1 December 2012. A consolidated version of the ordinance is available at: [http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c813\\_11.html](http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c813_11.html) (in DE/FR/IT and hopefully soon in EN). Major changes related to the implementation of the GHS:

- Obligation for suppliers to classify and label substances according to GHS (3. rev. Ed. 2009) based on the Standard of the European CLP-Regulation. Substances already classified and labelled before 1 December 2012 according to the former system, can be further supplied to final users for another two years (Nov. 2014).
- For mixtures, the revised ChemO still contains an option that allows to choose the C&L System until 2015.

- Adoption of downstream obligations: The ChemO contains several downstream obligations that are based on or make reference to the hazard labelling of certain dangerous chemicals. Among these obligations are notification duties to the Swiss product register and obligations for the handling of particular dangerous substances and mixtures (e.g. storage conditions, supply restrictions and special requirements with regard to supply).
  - In the revised ChemO these downstream obligations have been adopted to the GHS hazard labelling. The adopted obligations make reference to pictograms in connection with selected hazard phrases. Therefore certain hazard categories containing identical hazard communication elements (e.g. Acute Tox. Cat. 1 and 2; Skin Corr. 1A, 1B and 1C) are not differentiated for downstream obligation purposes in the revised ChemO.
4. Until June 2015 further steps will be necessary to fully implement the GHS in Switzerland. These include:
- An obligation to classify and label all mixtures according to GHS, including consumer products, biocides and plant protection products.
  - The abrogation of the current classification and labelling system.
  - Further amendments of Swiss downstream legislation acts (e.g. major accidents, cosmetics, workplace requirements).

## Information

5. The introduction of the GHS in Switzerland is accompanied by an information campaign which was launched early in September 2012. The campaign is named “genau geschaut, gut geschützt / bien regardé, bien protégé”. It aims at promoting the new pictograms and hazard communication according to GHS and it reminds of the basic principles for the safe use of chemicals.
6. The campaign is organized as a public-private partnership with financial support and contributions from different stakeholders from all kind of sectors (e.g. public health, safety at the workplace, consumer and environmental protection, industry and retail organisations, insurances).
7. The campaign has a total running time of three years (2012-2014) and it will consist of several steps addressing different audiences (manufacturer/distributors, consumers, workplaces). Furthermore it is foreseen to put some focus on particular audiences such as parents/schools, seniors, professional users, Do-it yourselfers.
8. Further information is available on the campaigns website ([www.cheminfo.ch](http://www.cheminfo.ch)). Downloads are available in three languages (DE/FR/IT) for flyers, presentations, short movies and for a Mobil app.
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