

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

Regulatory area to be addressed	<p>Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (Workplace Hazards)</p> <p>Health Canada and the United States (U.S.) Department of Labor will work together to coordinate the adoption of future updates of the GHS to facilitate common approaches and implementation in Canada and the United States and to minimize the potential of variances between the two countries.</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.</p> <p>This will be done under the auspices of the RPS (2015) and Memorandum of Understanding (2013) 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 (HC) – Consumer Product Safety Directorate (CPSD)

<p><u>Work Stream 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to reduce and prevent Canada-U.S. variances while respecting the regulatory requirements of each country, through ongoing collaboration and mutual review of guidance materials. ➤ Stakeholder engagement will be undertaken jointly so that guidance materials are beneficial to stakeholders. Lessons learned from the transition process will also be used to inform this work. ➤ Due to differences in the legislative frameworks between Canada and U.S., there are some regulatory requirements that will result in variances that will continue to exist. However, there may be other variances that both countries can work towards eliminating without reducing or compromising worker health and safety.

Planned initiatives and sub-deliverables		Date (Calendar Year)
Initiative A		
Development of GHS guidance for stakeholders	Develop compliance promotion materials on Canadian transition , implementation of GHS and how to comply with requirements of the <i>Hazardous Products Regulations</i> (HPR) (e.g., classification, labels and safety data sheets) and engage stakeholders	3rd Quarter 2015
	Provide (or develop) mechanisms for stakeholder engagement on development of HC/OSHA guidance priorities.	4 th Quarter 2015
	Develop technical guidance on Communication Requirements (e.g., container labelling) and Classification Requirements (e.g., combustible dust) in support of suppliers (manufacturers, importers, distributors) being able to meet Canadian and U.S. requirements	Milestones associated with transition to GHS (up to June 2017)
	Coordinate to the greatest extent possible, Canada-U.S. future updates to guidance	Updates to align with timing of regulatory amendments in Canada and the U.S.
	Develop aligned educational materials (e.g., fact sheets on variances, GHS etc)	3rd Quarter 2016 (review annually, as needed)
Initiative B		
Establish mechanisms to discuss variances	Establish a HC/OSHA working group to examine existing variances and feedback obtained from stakeholders, and to minimize the creation of further variances.	3rd Quarter 2015
	Identify priority areas/variances, in consideration of stakeholder feedback and work cooperatively to reach common decisions, where feasible	Updates to align with timing of regulatory amendments in Canada and the U.S.

Work Stream 2:

- Coordinate common positions in advance of United Nations (UN) and other international discussions on GHS.
- Use existing mechanisms to align Canada-U.S. positions on future updates and implementation of the GHS e.g., development and adoption of future revisions of the Purple Book (the Purple Book is the official UN GHS document which establishes the agreed hazard classification criteria and communication provisions with explanatory information on how to apply the system).
- Use existing fora (e.g., UN Sub-Committee of Experts on GHS) to promote increased global harmonization of GHS.
- Stakeholders will be kept apprised of developments and discussions prior to and following international discussions on GHS.

Planned initiatives and sub-deliverables		Date (Calendar Year)
Initiative A		
Coordinate common positions	Provide a mechanism for stakeholders to provide on-going input to CPSD and OSHA on GHS issues	3rd Quarter 2015
	Plan stakeholder sessions to inform stakeholders of issues before the UNSCEGHS and solicit feedback.	Biannually
	Meet with WG on UNSCEGHS to create common positions, where appropriate and prepare in advance of UNSCEGHS meetings.	Biannually
	Provide updates to stakeholders on issues that arise from the international discussions and establish a forward plan, where appropriate, considering these issues.	Biannually
Initiative B		
Maintain alignment on the implementation of the GHS	Establish a HC/OSHA working group for alignment of regulatory work and to reduce barriers, to the greatest extent practicable, in the implementation of future GHS updates; Identify requirements for regulatory amendments moving forward.	3rd Quarter 2015
	Communicate GHS updates to stakeholders and	Updates to align

	potential impacts for Canada and the U.S. related to alignment with GHS Purple Book revisions.	with timing of regulatory amendments in Canada and the U.S.
	Where variances occur between Canada and U.S. regarding adoptions of future revisions of the GHS Purple Book, communicate impact and forward plan to stakeholders for specific areas.	Updates to align with timing of regulatory amendments in Canada and the U.S.
	Ensure guidance is updated with future revisions of the Purple Book.	Updates to align with timing of regulatory amendments in Canada and the U.S.