Hazard identification.

Getting ahead through innovation.

With its innovative concepts, Linde is playing a pioneering role in the global market. As a technology leader, it is not just a matter of constantly outperforming the competition. We are working steadily on even higher-quality products and innovative processes.

Linde offers more: we create added value, clearly discernible competitive advantages, and greater profitability. Each concept is tailored specifically to meet our customers’ requirements – offering standardized as well as customized solutions. This applies to all industries and all companies regardless of their size.

If you want to keep pace with tomorrow’s competition, you need a partner by your side for whom top quality, process optimization, and enhanced productivity are part of daily business. However, we define partnership not merely as being there for you but being with you. After all, joint activities form the core of commercial success.

Linde – ideas become solutions.

LeadIng towards a global language of safety.
Harmonising the language of safety.

Launched in 2005 by the United Nations (UN), GHS stands for Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. Although it is not a formal treaty and is not legally binding, GHS is an international agreement that affects more than 60 countries. It is gradually being phased into national legislation around the world.

GHS provides a logical, comprehensive framework to:

- avoid the physical, health or environmental hazards of chemicals
- clarify and label substances and mixtures accordingly
- harmonise hazard and precautionary communication systems through labels and safety data sheets.

The aim of GHS is, on the one hand, to protect human health and the environment concerned with the handling, transportation and use of chemicals. On the other, it seeks to harmonise international trade. Although the benefits of a global approach are widely recognized, the effort involved in aligning regional labelling and data standards is immense. Enterprises have to adapt to comply with the new harmonized safety information shown through their distribution chains to end users. Users, in turn, can find the transition to new symbols and information complicating, especially if there are still regional variations.

Safety first

As a leading supplier of industrial gases, safety is our number one priority. As always, we want to lead the way in complying with the new safety guidelines as quickly and efficiently as possible. So it comes as no surprise that we should want to lead the way in complying with the new GHS guidelines. As a result, our cylinders and datasheets worldwide already reflect the new classification and labelling guidelines.

So what does partnering with Linde mean for you?

Having a trusted partner such as Linde at your side means that you can be confident that your supplies will already be fully compliant by the time the new guidelines become effective in your region.

You can also save time and money in identifying the needs to reconcile and comply with the requirements of different national and regional systems. The new classifications and labels give you the insights you need to proactively adapt to any changes in your region. GHS thus allows you to proactively design safety throughout your entire processes from sourcing through the supply chain, even directly with chemicals, which also benefits those who work with chemicals indirectly, such as warehouse managers, health and safety officers, goods handlers or even fire fighters.

It also means you stay up to date on the latest insights in the world of gases, although the properties of gases do not change, the understanding of those physical properties can evolve. For instance, a gas mixture that was originally classified as non-toxic for usage may now be labelled as toxic. The new GHS regulations allow you to be alert ahead of these changes.

At the same time, we understand that the new regulations can give rise to some confusion and to questions. To help guide you and your colleagues as partners through these, we have prepared a series of FAQs, GHS/CLP safety symbols and hazard statements for pure gas substances and gas mixtures (2015).

What is the purpose of GHS?

GHS serves to:
- enhance the protection of human health and the environment by providing an internationally comparable framework for hazardous substances and mixtures;
- provide a recognised framework for countries without an existing system;
- reduce the need for licensing and evaluation of chemicals, and facilitate international trade in chemicals whose hazards have been properly assessed and identified on an international basis.

Which countries does it affect?

In principle all countries may be affected as GHS is global in scope. Regulatory authorities will decide how to apply the various elements of GHS when it comes into effect in their country and will set deadlines for implementation. In principle, the following table gives some timeline examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>Deadline for new substances</th>
<th>Deadline for existing substances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>01.01.2017</td>
<td>01.01.2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>01.01.2017</td>
<td>01.01.2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>01.04.2017</td>
<td>01.01.2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>01.09.2013</td>
<td>01.01.2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>01.06.2015</td>
<td>01.06.2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When does it become law?

GHS becomes law where it is implemented in a specific country/region. The implementation timelines vary from one country to another and in some cases, may also differ for pure substances and mixtures. The following table gives some timeline examples.

FAQs.