

# Canada and US Agree to Continue Coordinating Implementation of GHS



The primary goal of the UN's Globally Harmonized System (GHS) is to implement a single, understandable approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets (SDSs) that's used across the world.

Having a unified approach to hazardous chemicals is especially important between Canada and the US, which are both neighbours and trading partners. That's why OSHA and Health Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2013 to promote ongoing collaboration on implementing the GHS in their respective jurisdictions.

The US implemented GHS first, releasing its [Hazard Communication Standard](#) in March 2012. Canada then amended the *Hazardous Products Act* and published the final [Hazardous Products Regulations](#) (HPR) in Feb. 2015, creating what's now called [WHMIS 2015](#).

Although the Canadian and US versions of GHS are similar, there are [some differences](#).

But OSHA recently announced today that it'll continue its partnership with Health Canada to align their regulatory approaches to labelling and classification requirements for workplace chemicals through the [Regulatory Cooperation](#)

[Council](#). The goal of the partnership is to implement a system allowing the use of one label and one SDS that would be acceptable in both countries.