VOL. XXV NO. 6, June 2012

800.554.8265
chemstation.com

INSIGHTS



ChemStation

GHS Now the Law

May 25, 2012 was the effective date for the law regarding GHS (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals). According to OSHA, the GHS rule will affect over 5 million workplaces and 40 million workers.

Phase-in/transition period

- **December 1, 2013:** All employers that use, handle, and store chemicals will have trained employees about the new chemical labels and safety data sheets or SDSs (formally material safety data sheets or MSDSs).
- **June 1, 2015:** Chemical manufacturers, importers and distributors will comply with all the requirements of the GHS rule, except compliance with GHS label requirements for distributors by December 1, 2015.
- **December 1, 2015:** Chemical manufacturers, importers, and distributors – all shipments of chemical containers must include the GHS-compliant label signal word, pictogram, hazard statement, and precautionary statement.
- **June 1, 2016:** All employers that use, handle, and store chemicals will have updated alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication program as necessary and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards.



All About OSHA

OSHA updated its publication, "All About OSHA," a comprehensive guide to the agency's mission, coverage of workers, standards, enforcement, whistleblower protections, and more. For a copy, go to http://www.osha.gov/Publications/all_about_OSHA.pdf

THINKING GREEN

How To Get Rid of...

Batteries: Recycling rechargeable batteries is fairly easy. Home Depot, Staples, Radio Shack, Best Buy, and many other retailers take them back free of charge. For single-use batteries, look for bins at your local library or a household hazardous waste drop-off site.

CFLs: Fluorescent bulbs contain tiny amounts of mercury that can leach out if broken, so recycle them properly. Drop off old bulbs at any Home Depot or Ikea for free recycling. If you have no other options and must throw them in the trash, the EPA suggests sealing CFLs in two plastic bags before disposing.

Aerosol cans: Empty cans can be recycled fairly easily through your curb side program or at your local recycling facility. Partially full cans should be dropped off at a household hazardous waste drop off site.

Car stuff: WalMart, AutoZone, JiffyLube and others recycle used motor oil. Ask if they'll take your oil filters back for recycling too. Return dead car batteries to the store where you are purchasing a new one and ask if they'll recycle it. If not, check with your local household hazardous waste center.

Paint: First, do your best to make sure it gets used. Give it to a friend. Use it for primer. Donate it to charity, such as Habitat for Humanity or a school theater group. If you can't reuse it, you might need to throw dried paint in the trash if it's not against the law in your community. Let the paint dry out until it's completely hard. Take any oil-based paints directly to your household hazardous waste center.

Storm Recovery Guidance

As residents recover from recent storms that have devastated parts of the U.S., OSHA warned cleanup workers of the hazards involved with cleanup work and the steps they should take to protect themselves.

According to the agency, hazards may include downed power lines, carbon monoxide from portable generators, fall and struck-by hazards from tree-trimming, burns, lacerations, musculoskeletal injuries, exposure to hazardous materials, and being struck by traffic or heavy equipment, among other hazards.

Fact sheets, quick cards, and other educational materials on safe work practices and personal protective equipment are available at osha.gov/dts/weather/tornado.

The Eyes Have It!

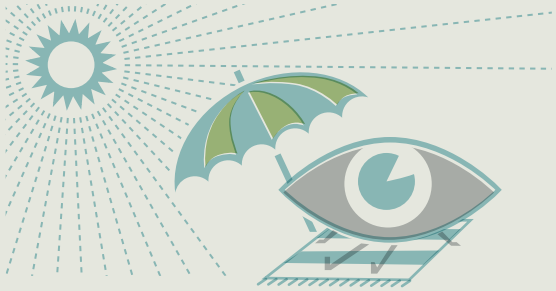
You know the sun can be harmful to your skin, but do you know about the damage it can inflict on your eyes? Possibly the most frightening aspect of UV damage is that it is cumulative; the negative effects may not present themselves until years later.

UV-A – These rays can hurt your central vision. It can damage the macula, a part of the retina at the back of your eye.

UV-B – The front part of your eye (the cornea and the lens) absorbs most UV-B rays, but these rays may cause even more damage to your eyes than UV-A rays.

Over time, the effects of UV rays may help cause a number of eye problems including macular degeneration, cataract, pterygium, skin cancer (around the eyelids), and corneal sunburn.

Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses that block 99 to 100 percent of UV-A and UV-B rays.



Tips and Tricks

"Newspaper" your weeds away: Before you begin planting your garden, work any nutrients into your soil. Plant the foliage as you normally would. Place layers of wet newspapers around the plants, overlapping as you go. Cover the newspaper layers with mulch and forget about weeds. Weeds can get through some of the gardening plastic; but they will not get through the wet newspapers.

Broken glass: Use a wet cotton ball or Q-tip to pick up the small shards of glass you can't see easily.

No more mosquitoes: Place a dryer sheet in the pocket of your shorts, jeans, etc. It will keep mosquitoes away.

"Squirrel away": To keep squirrels from eating your plants sprinkle the plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper doesn't hurt the plant and the squirrels won't come near it. This also works to keep the squirrels out of the bird feeders. Just mix the cayenne pepper with the bird seed and fill the feeder.

Foggy windshield: Hate foggy windshields? Buy a chalkboard eraser and keep it in the glove box of your car. When the windows fog, rub them with the eraser! Works better than a cloth.



SOAPBOX

An expert is a man who tells you a simple thing in a confused way in such a fashion as to make you think the confusion is your own fault.

Be obscure clearly.

You must believe in free will: there is no choice.

Living in a vacuum sucks.

It takes less time to avoid it than to explain it.

There's no half-singing in the shower: you're either a rock star or an opera diva.

About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age.

The more directives you issue to solve a problem, the worse it gets.

Remember, the future is written in sand – the past in concrete.

You will always find the easiest, fastest, most economical way to do any project around the time you are finishing it.

Always remember to keep your swash buckled.

ChemStation®

INSIGHTS Editor
ChemStation
3400 Encrete Lane
Dayton, OH 45439

kdunlap@chemstation.com

www.chemstation.com

By the Numbers



Gallons of soap delivered:
176,913,278 since 1984



Empty drums not in landfills:
3,216,605 since 1984