



Tempe Environmental Bulletin

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What Is Globally Harmonized System (GHS)?

Globally Harmonized System (GHS) stands for the classification and labeling of chemicals. The system is a set of guidelines for ensuring the safe production, transportation, handling, use and disposal of hazardous chemicals, and it was developed by the United Nations as a way to bring into agreement the chemical regulations and standards of different countries. The US officially adopted GHS on March 26, 2012. The hope is that every country will incorporate tenets of the GHS into their chemical management systems to make international sale and transportation of hazardous chemical easier, as well as, making workplace conditions safer for all employees exposed to chemical hazards. The GHS is not a global law or regulation—it is a system. Think of it as a set of recommendations or collection of best practices. To date, 67 countries have adopted or are in the process of adopting the GHS. The most noticeable change brought about by GHS for most will be changes to safety labels and safety data sheets. Below are the pictograms for the most common categories of chemicals. Transportation has a different set of pictograms. Visit the OSHA website for the complete rule and additional information about GHS at <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html>



Acute Toxicity



Corrosive



Explosive



Flammable



Gases



Oxidizer



Carcinogen



Irritant



Environmental
Toxicity

City of Tempe Stormwater Program Reminder:

“Be Stormwater Smart” and visit our website for Best Management Practices you can use to reduce the risk of adding pollutants to stormwater. <http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater>

You can also use this website to learn more about Tempe’s Stormwater Management Program, to report illicit discharges to storm drains, or to file a stormwater related complaint.

Remember that it is a violation of the City of Tempe Code to cause or allow a non-stormwater discharge to a stormwater drain!

As required by Tempe’s stormwater permit, Environmental Compliance Inspectors have significantly increased commercial and industrial stormwater inspections. If you would like to schedule an inspection at your facility, please call (480) 350-2678.

