

CLP Regulations – advisory note

April 2014

CLP is the Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures. This Regulation aligns previous EU legislation on classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals to the GHS (Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals). Its main objectives are to facilitate international trade in chemicals and to maintain the existing level of protection of human health and environment. The GHS is a United Nations system to identify hazardous chemicals and to inform users about these hazards through standard symbols and phrases on the packaging labels and through safety data sheets (SDS).

The CLP Regulation was published in the Official Journal 31 December 2008 and entered into force on 20 January 2009.

However CLP is being introduced gradually and has a fairly lengthy transitional period before it applies in full – from 1 June 2015. This means that the ‘old’ rules (CHIP) are currently being phased out. For a relatively short period certain arrangements have been put in place to allow the two systems to run side-by-side.

If suppliers want to apply CLP ahead of its mandatory compliance date they are free to do so, provided the transitional arrangements are followed.

EU CLP REGULATION (EC) No 1272/2008

Substances

1st December 2010

Suppliers must classify substances according to CLP. They must label and package according to CLP.

Mixtures

20th January 2009 – 1st June 2015

Suppliers must classify preparations according to DPD, and may continue to label and package them according to DPD.

1st June 2015 onwards Suppliers must classify, label and package mixtures according to CLP.

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GHS hazard pictograms



CLP also introduces new symbols, the pictograms. They are characterised by a red triangle and a white background, whereas old EU labels are based on orange background. Also, CLP introduces two new signal words 'Danger' and 'Warning' to alert the reader of the potential danger. Additionally the current risk phrases will be replaced by new hazard phrases whilst the existing safety phrases will be replaced by precautionary phrases.

The CLP labelling requirements are completely different to the current EU standards and much more regulatory information will be displayed on the label.

More information: www.hse.gov.uk/ghs/Eureg

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