Key points

‣ Look out for new labels and safety data sheets.
‣ Train employees to understand and recognise the new label information.
‣ Check that your use of the substance or mixture is covered on the SDS and is not advised against.
‣ Follow the advice provided on the new labels and in safety data sheets.
‣ Check whether the classification has changed.
‣ Evaluate the risks to workers and update your workplace risk assessments if necessary.
‣ If you are an employer, communicate these changes to your employees.
‣ If you have any questions about the new label or safety data sheet, speak to your supplier.

More information

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) website (http://echa.europa.eu) provides detailed guidance on the CLP regulation and the REACH regulation.

A list of Member States’ national CLP helpdesks can also be found on the ECHA website.

Information on legislation to protect workers from chemicals can be found at: http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/employment_and_social_policy/health_hygiene_safety_at_work/index_en.htm

Information and publications on health and safety at work can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/social/healthandsafety
Chemical products are used every day at work, for example cleaning products, lubricants, paints and glues. Labels on these products tell us useful information about:

- the type of chemicals the product contains;
- what hazards are associated with the product;
- how to use the chemical safely.

Over the next few years, new legislation, known as the CLP regulation (classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures), will change the way chemical products are classified to identify hazards and how this information is communicated on labels and safety data sheets (SDS).

The CLP regulation implements the United Nations’ Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in the EU. GHS is being adopted worldwide to improve and harmonise worker and consumer safety and facilitate global trade.

**Some of the differences you may see are:**

- classification criteria and classification methods are different for some types of hazard, so some chemical products may be classified more or less severely;
- new hazard pictograms will replace danger symbols on labels;
- new wording in hazard (H) and precautionary (P) statements will replace risk (R) and safety (S) phrases;
- classifications for both the CLP and the previous legislation on SDS, and label information moved from Section 15 to Section 2 of the SDS.

**Example**

Acetone
EC No. 200-662-2

**Danger**
Highly flammable liquid and vapour. Causes serious eye irritation. May cause drowsiness or dizziness. Keep away from heat / sparks / open flames / hot surfaces – No smoking. Avoid breathing vapours. Wear protective gloves / eye protection. IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. Store in a well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed. Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness and cracking.

**Signal word**

**Name, address and tel. n° of supplier**
ABC Chemicals
Main Street
Anytown
Tel. 0123 456 789

**Nominal quantity**
500 ml

**Hazard and precautionary statements**
Contains gases under pressure

**Pictograms**

The CLP pictograms

The three new pictograms have the following meaning:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of hazard</th>
<th>Old symbol</th>
<th>New pictogram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May cause serious long-term health effects, such as carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, reproductive toxicity, respiratory sensitisation, specific target organ toxicity and aspiration hazard</td>
<td>or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less serious health hazards such as irritants, skin sensitisers and less severe toxicity (harmful)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contains gases under pressure</td>
<td>No symbol</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>