

**[JOINT DTI-DENR-DA-DOF-DOH-DILG-DOLE-
DOTC ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 01, S. 2009,
May 25, 2009]**

**THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBALLY
HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELING OF
CHEMICALS (GHS)**

Whereas, the Philippines is a participating government during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992;

Whereas, the Philippine Government adheres to the principles embodied in Agenda 21, which were adopted at the UNCED;

Whereas, Chapter 19, Program B of Agenda 21 mandates that a globally harmonized hazard classification and compatible labeling system, including material data sheets and easily understandable symbols, should be available, if feasible, by the year 2000;

Whereas, at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002, governments reaffirmed their commitments and agreed on a 2008 implementation target for the GHS;

Whereas, at the 14th Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC) APEC Ministerial Meeting held in Los Cabos, Mexico in October 2002 the APEC members were encouraged to work towards implementing the Globally Harmonized System on hazard classification and labeling of chemicals and safety data sheets by 2006;

Whereas, the first version of the GHS was adopted in December 2002 by the UN Sub-Committee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UN SCEGHS), and endorsed by the UN Committee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (UN CTDGGHS);

Whereas, at the 18th APEC Ministerial Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam in November 2006, the member economies were encouraged to continue their efforts to implement the GHS with a view to having it fully implemented by the recommended target date of 2008;

Whereas, the identified sectors of the GHS implementation are: agriculture, industrial workplace/production, transport and consumer products;

Whereas, based on the Situation and Gap Analysis conducted on the identified sectors, there are already existing laws in the Philippines addressing the management of chemicals, particularly on labeling;

Whereas, there is a need to revise the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the concerned laws to implement the provisions of GHS;

Whereas, to ensure the involvement and commitment of concerned government agencies in addressing these target sectors of the GHS implementation, a Joint Administrative Order is hereby promulgated.

NOW, THEREFORE, this Order is hereby prescribed by the undersigned Departments for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned:

SECTION 1. Objective - The objective of this Joint Administrative Order is the adoption and implementation of classification criteria, labeling and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) requirements of the GHS.

SECTION 2. Definitions -

a. GHS is an acronym for Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. The GHS is a system for standardizing and harmonizing the classification and labeling of chemicals. It is a logical and comprehensive approach to

- Defining health, physical and environmental hazards of chemicals
- Creating classification processes that use available data on chemicals for comparison with the defined hazard criteria; and
- Communicating hazard information, as well as protective measures, on labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

b. Harmonization refers to establishing a common and coherent basis for hazards classification and communication of chemicals, and the appropriate elements relevant to means of transport, consumers, workers and environmental protection can be selected/chosen.

c. Label refers to an appropriate group of written, printed or graphic information elements that are affixed to, printed on, or attached to the immediate container of a hazardous product, or to the outside packaging of a hazardous product.

d. Hazards refer to the inherent characteristics of chemical substances and mixtures that exist in the workplace and in the environment regardless of quantity that are potentially dangerous or which have the capacity to harm, i.e., its capacity to interfere with normal biological processes, and its capacity to burn, explode, corrode, etc.

e. "Chemical substance" means any organic or inorganic substance of a particular molecular identity including any element or uncombined chemical and any combination of such substances, or any mixture of two and excluding radioactive materials.