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# NEWS & VIEWS

A monthly newsletter brought to you by:



August 2012  
[www.Hazmat-1.com](http://www.Hazmat-1.com)



## *A Message from Our President*

**Dear Friends,**

I hope this finds you well and in good spirits. As the summer season draws to a close and vacationers return to their work routines, I am mindful of our need to share the latest news and changes in regulatory compliance safety.

The fall is a perfect time to remind everyone of the United States' recent adoption of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS). These new regulations brought about by GHS have led TCA to develop a new suite of services and products that will help companies transition to the new standards. As your partner in compliance safety, we work to ensure that your regulatory compliance program is safe and effective.

This issue of our newsletter provides some insight into the new GHS standards. It is my hope that you will find it useful and choose to rely on TCA during this constant time of change. Thank you for your time, your interest in TCA, and your attention to these important changes.

Your Partner in Compliance Safety,

*Karen Alston*

**Transportation  
Compliance  
Associates, Inc.**



**We Are:**

A **Niche** Company

**Customized** to You

**Trusted** (our experts  
have a combined  
300+years of hands-on  
experience)

**Looking Out** for Your  
Daily Operations

**Woman and Veteran**  
Operated

## GHS - What Does it Mean for You?

By: Jack Alston, Sales Manager

DOT/IATA/IMDG/BioMedical Certified



The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) recently adopted the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) into their Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). As a result, employers and chemical manufacturers must comply with the new regulations and standards. Among the many changes, the most notable changes likely to affect your business operations are material safety data sheets (MSDS) changing to safety data sheets (SDS) as well as the implementation of GHS practices. At last count, more than 77 countries have adopted GHS.

□

With many countries adopting this new standard, the new SDSs for products distributed within those countries will be required by GHS. The true challenge will be in converting the MSDSs to SDSs and managing the SDSs for those countries. The revision to the HCS by OSHA will mean major changes in most MSDS data and will require updating for compliance. Here at TCA, we have found most MSDS libraries will completely be revised to accommodate the SDS standard. ***We offer fast, convenient authoring service and a complete cost effective management program. [Let TCA do the work!](#)***

□

TCA has been at the forefront of facing the challenges presented by new regulations. We are able to achieve this with our electronic management of hazardous materials data, including MSDS, SDS, and product classification data, all designed to mitigate our clients' exposure to the new regulations. ***The key to achieving compliance is effectively managing data, building product data, and then maintaining that compliance for materials. We believe this here at TCA because we have seen these systems work for a variety of manufacturers***

**and employers.**

Additional benefits to electronic hazmat data management include the ability to easily update your system. As regulations are implemented, changes are made to the regulations, and the new information is easily disseminated throughout the supply chain and distribution channels. **Try us out today with a free trial of our data management services!**

TCA can author new SDSs, update existing ones, revitalize current MSDS data and convert to SDSs. Our industry professionals use state of the art authoring software, along with review by our staff toxicologist, to ensure your SDS documents meet the requirements of the HCS.

□

The new SDS must comply with GHS, ANSI, REACH, and the destination country. These conversions to SDS can be a daunting task that requires expertise by professionals. Every SDS TCA authors for our clients is reviewed by our hazmat professionals, ensuring accuracy and compliance with the proper format.

□

In addition to this, over the past year (and in the upcoming years) your hazmat employees have seen, and will continue to see, dramatic changes in compliance procedures they have enjoyed over many years. The "*we have done it this way for twenty years*" frame of mind is, and should be, retired within your supply chain. This has caused significant concern in many companies and has caused an entire review of the supply chain.

□

The changes incorporated in procedures include signal words, pictograms, hazard statements and precautionary statements, a new look for material safety data, and product markings and labeling. A key component of OSHA's HCS is **training**. Hazmat employees must fully understand the new standard, know how to interpret SDS data, and then implement it into their workplace and shipping procedures. Over the course of the next 12 to 18 months, most companies in the United States will be affected by these changes.

□

While this may seem overwhelming to employees and employers, reliance on TCA can ensure that your organization is compliant. **Let TCA do what we do best: compliance customized to you.** This will ultimately let you do what you do best and allow you to strive as leader in

your industry.

## HazCom 101

**By: Mike Alston, Vice President, CHMM**

It has long been a requirement under the OSHA Hazard Communication regulation for manufacturers, importers, or distributors to label containers leaving their facilities. However, with the recent addition of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) the labels now require a pictogram.

Shippers mistakenly believe that placarding a container such as a railcar or truck satisfies this requirement. **This is not the case** as the placard used for DOT transportation identifies the transportation hazard and not the chronic or acute physical hazards of the material.

### **According to 29 CFR 1910.1200 (f):**

The chemical manufacturer, importer, or distributor shall ensure that each container of hazardous chemicals leaving the workplace is labeled, tagged, or marked. Hazards not otherwise classified do not have to be addressed on the container.

**The following information shall be provided where the chemical manufacturer or importer is required to label, tag, or mark:**

- (i) Product identifier
- (ii) Signal word
- (iii) Hazard statement(s)
- (iv) Pictogram(s)
- (v) Precautionary statement(s)
- (vi) Name, address, and telephone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer, or other responsible party

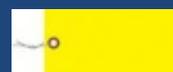
In addition, the Hazard Communication Standard requires chemical manufacturers, importers, and distributors of hazardous chemicals to provide the appropriate labels and material safety data sheets (which under GHS will become safety data sheets, SDS) to the employers to which they ship their chemicals. This information is to be provided automatically. Every container of hazardous chemicals received must be labeled, tagged, or marked with the required information. Suppliers must also send a properly completed SDS at the time of the first shipment of the chemical. The following shipments must include an updated SDS with new and significant information about the hazards.

**[Facing these new federally mandated requirements can be a challenge. TCA can assist you with both requirements.](#)**

**Are You Ready for  
the Change?**

**TCA now provides  
the following  
products and  
services to help  
you fulfill GHS  
requirements:**

**Product Label  
Tags**



Printing labels on Tyvek material with twist tie wires from your MSDS/SDS at a low cost. *\*Volume pricing is in effect and we can provide you with a free quote.*

**Maintaining your  
MSDS/SDS's**



You can find additional information about federally mandated product label tags [here](#).

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## Proposed Legislation Could Change the Course for Hazardous Waste Tracking

By: Jocelyn Grecko, Government Relations



The [United States House Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy](#) recently approved S. 710, the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Establishment Act. The legislation, which passed the Senate unanimously last summer, is an attempt to, "modernize the way the Federal Government and states tack the shipment of hazardous waste."

If passed by Congress, the law would allow replacing the current paper-based tracking system for reporting hazardous waste with a new electronic system.

Proponents of the legislation argue that if enacted, the law would help reduce paperwork, streamline processes, and eliminate government waste.

TCA's Mike Alston, Vice President and Senior Hazardous Materials Manager, explained how this will affect hazardous waste generators and transporters as well as owners and operators of hazardous waster treatment, storage, recycling, and disposal facilities. "**The central location for tracking the shipments is a good idea, but there will be a fee involved,**" Alston explained.

Alston also pointed out that while the law would alleviate potential paper trail issues with shipments, the ability for all users to comply with the necessary electronic software remains to be seen. Alston envisions this to be a costly endeavor.

In addition to this, TCA notes that the proposed legislation does not address whether e-signatures can be used in the electronic tracking process. S. 710 also needs to address what exceptions would be made should there be a discrepancy in the weight or total number of cars in the shipments.

TCA will continue to monitor the status of the bill as it continues to be considered by the House of Representatives this fall.

A dedicated Sharepoint site with full 24/7/365 access. We also provide distribution of your MSDS information with each new shipment and when a change or update is identified.

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## **TCA Employee Spotlight**

*Collectively, TCA's certified instructors have more than 300 years of hands-on industry experience. Our professionals have distinguished reputations in the industry. This makes us unique and allows us to customize our services to our clients. This month, meet **Lindsay Tomchack**, Hazardous Materials Instructor.*

### **Q: What is your role at TCA?**

A: I am one of the Hazardous Materials Instructors here at TCA. I specialize in training facilities in DOT regulations on the hazardous materials that they ship whether by ground, air, or sea. Training is focused on whether the materials are shipped in the U.S., Canada, or European countries. I am also trained and certified in RCRA which deals with hazardous waste and their manifests. Soon, I will be able to start training in tank car and tank truck regulations.

### **Q: What is your background in the safety science industry?**

A: I began my interest in the industry after having my dad, who has 40+ years of experience in the chemical industry, as my mentor. He taught me a great deal of what I know. I have also learned a tremendous amount from my work with Mike here at TCA. I received my B.S. in Marketing from Robert Morris University and have always had a love for public speaking. As a result, my years of communications classes have helped me engage with TCA's clients. Combining my communication skills as well as the knowledge passed on from my dad and Mike has allowed me to truly help our clients.

### **Q: What projects are you currently working on?**

A: Besides going on-site to facilities to conduct trainings, we set ourselves apart from the rest of the industry professionals by taking our clients' products that they ship and incorporating them into a specialized training program unique to their operations. That way, they can have that hands-on experience rather than just a broad training program that might not cover their actual needs. I specialize in developing these training programs. I think it really sets our company's training program above the rest and is the reason we have had such long-standing relationships with our clients.

### **Q: Why is your project an important part of compliance safety and what we do here at TCA?**

A: DOT rules and regulations are constantly changing and being updated. My responsibility is to be aware of what these changes are and keep our clients up to date on the latest rules and regulations. I also incorporate these rules and regulations into our training programs. Customizing these training programs helps companies tremendously in

understanding everything that is involved when shipping out their hazardous materials, reading MSDS, and understanding how their products should be labeled, marked, and shipped out correctly. Compliance with these DOT regulations must be taught in order to ship out these products safely and correctly. We teach this in our training programs.

***Q: Can you describe the TCA environment and what it is like to be a part of the team?***

A: I love working at TCA!! I love everything about my time there. Karen and Mike make the environment that we have at TCA such a warm and welcoming place. I feel so accomplished at the end of the day and am confident that I am helping our clients obtain the knowledge and certification they need in order to make their operations smooth, safe, and efficient. I know I am making a difference.

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**Have Your Hazmat Handled?  
Test Your Knowledge!**

1.) When must employers be required to be trained according in GHS?

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2.) GHS stands for:

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3.) True or False: Placarding rail cars or trucks satisfies the GHS requirement.

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4.) What is the first item to be included on the product label tag?

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5.) With GHS, MSDS will be referred to as:

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**Answers:**

1.) December 2013, 2.) Globally Harmonized System 3.) False (chemical manufacturers, importers, and distributors shall ensure that each container is labeled, tagged, or marked. 4.) product identifier, 5.) SDS (safety data sheet)

1340 Route 30 | Clinton, PA, USA 15026

Email: [info@hazmat-1.com](mailto:info@hazmat-1.com)

Website: [www.Hazmat-1.com](http://www.Hazmat-1.com)



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