



6 Tips for Universities to Ensure GHS Compliance

It may sound challenging, but improving safety for university workers who handle cleaning supplies and other chemicals is easier than it seems.

GHS: What you need to know

Did you know that GHS label compliance is required even for chemical formulations bought in bulk containers, such as barrels of sanitiser or cleaning solutions transferred to smaller “down-packed” containers, such as spray bottles, for portable use? Such formulations include common compounds that can be dangerous or deadly in the wrong combination, like bleach and ammonia, or flammable paints and oxidisers.

To help you on your way to becoming GHS compliant, here are six handy tips:

1) Use GHS-compliant safety data sheets and labels and train workers to handle hazardous chemicals properly.

On each GHS label, six items of data are required: Product Name or Identifier; Hazard Statement; Signal Word; GHS Pictogram symbols; Precautionary Statement; and Supplier Information.

Instead of the familiar black and white pictogram symbols previously used in safety labelling, GHS labels now require pictogram symbols that convey hazard information with a red diamond border.

GHS label information is critical, for both compliance and safety. For example, mixing ammonia cleaner with bleach can create dangerous fumes.

2) Label all secondary containers.

If a chemical is supplied to the workplace with a GHS label, it must be maintained. If the chemical is transferred to a secondary container, such as a tank or spray bottle that stays in the workplace, employers must label it with information from the original GHS shipping label or safety data sheet.

As well as being compliant, following the GHS labelling system will help to improve safety. The pictogram symbols quickly convey the possible presence of dangerous chemicals to those that may be exposed and not trained in the use of the chemicals – the fire symbol or skull & crossbones for example.

3) Save on printing with durable label options on demand.

Many organisations are turning to flexible, lower cost options, such as commercial, industrial-grade labels that allow the printing of durable GHS labels on demand with laser printers and certain inkjet printers.

Unlike standard labels, those like the Avery Ultra Heavy Duty labels are suitable for use in harsh environments like restaurants, hotels, warehouses and manufacturing facilities. This means they're designed to be durable and able to withstand exposure to chemicals, abrasion, tearing, moisture, sunlight and extreme temperatures.



With Design & Print, the free online template software from Avery, you can quickly create GHS labels in the quantities you need, whenever you need them. For instance, you can print a single label for a spray bottle in a classroom or dozens for the university campus. You can also save your GHS label designs so you don't have to recreate them every time.

4) Meet rugged GHS commercial requirements to stay compliant.

The challenge is that to be GHS compliant, labels must stay reliably affixed without fading or becoming unreadable, despite harsh indoor or outdoor conditions such as exposure to chemicals, moisture, and spills.

Avery Ultra Heavy Duty labels are designed to meet rigorous GHS requirements. These labels are chemical resistant, tear resistant, abrasion resistant and constructed with a marine-grade adhesive that is waterproof and passes a 90-day seawater submersion adhesion test.

Unlike other labels, which crack and harden in harsh conditions, these GHS labels are UV resistant with 2+ years of outdoor UV life. They are also temperature resistant, can be applied as low as 0° C, and used between -40°C to +150°C.

Keep in mind that a faded or illegible label is the same as no label at all.

5) Take advantage of free label-printing software.

Avery have a Design & Print GHS Wizard making it easy to create and print your own GHS and safety labels from pre-designed templates. You can create labels on demand from your desk at any time, following the simple step-by-step process.

Design & Print from Avery includes all the pictograms and GHS compliant statements needed for GHS labelling and allows customisable text as well as the insertion of a company logo or other images. You can also generate 18 different types of barcode and make use of the sequential numbering feature to add lot numbers or other variable data.

With Avery, your GHS labels can be securely saved online or to a computer.

6) Choose GHS labels that work with the full range of container sizes and container surface types.

GHS labels need to be available in a range of sizes to fit drums, cans, jugs, containers and even small bottles. Ultra Heavy Duty Labels from Avery have this covered and can be applied to a variety of surfaces such as metal, plastic, glass, ceramic, polycarbonate, painted surfaces, and more.

For more information and to watch a demo of GHS label creation visit www.avery.co.uk/GHS