



Additional GHS statements on agricultural chemical products

What is GHS?

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) was adopted by the United Nations with the objective of establishing and, where necessary, improving the safety of workers handling chemicals. GHS classifies chemicals by types of hazard and proposes harmonised hazard communication elements.

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) approved product labels are recognised as world's best practice, but Safe Work Australia have insisted on imposing additional and unnecessary labelling requirements on APVMA registered products, despite there being no evidence of its need.

i CropLife Australia has successfully ensured that **only agricultural chemical products manufactured or imported on or after 1 January 2017 need to include additional GHS hazard and precautionary statements.**

i **This means all existing stock throughout the reseller and distribution network, and on-farm, is not required to be re-labelled to comply with new Work Health and Safety (WHS) regulations introduced by Safe Work Australia (SWA).**

i **Suppliers of products manufactured or imported on or after 1 January 2017 that are not compliant with the new GHS requirements are exposed to up to \$30,000 fines per product in most jurisdictions.**

i **CropLife Australia member products manufactured on or after 1 January 2017 will be fully compliant with the new GHS requirements. It would be prudent, however, for resellers to ensure non-CropLife member products manufactured on or after 1 January 2017 are lawful.**

GHS implementation in Australia

**Safe Work Australia's Model
WHS Regulations 2011
remove the current
recognition that APVMA
approved agricultural
chemical labels are
appropriately labelled to
meet all WHS requirements.**

From 1 January 2017, additional GHS hazard and precautionary statements will be required on eligible agricultural chemical product labels. CropLife Australia has, however, recently secured agreement from the SWA Board that the implementation of additional GHS hazard and precautionary statements on

agricultural chemical products will only apply to those manufactured or imported on or after 1 January 2017. Therefore, existing stock of agricultural chemical products manufactured before 1 January 2017 with an APVMA approved label complies with WHS requirements.

Every agricultural chemical product already undergoes a comprehensive expert technical hazard and risk assessment by the APVMA, resulting in prescribed use instructions and safety warnings being applied on the APVMA approved label reflecting the outcomes of that assessment.

In addition, Safety Data Sheets provide information on the properties of hazardous chemicals and how they affect health and safety in the workplace. GHS hazard and precautionary statements are in addition to APVMA use instructions and safety warnings.

The introduction of GHS hazard and precautionary statements for agricultural chemical products does not change the composition, use instructions or manufacturing processes for products. Additional GHS hazard and precautionary statements may be included on the label, even though the risk of exposure through normal use patterns is unchanged.

More information



All CropLife Australia member companies have assessed their specific product range and determined required additional information. If you have any questions for CropLife Australia members, please contact the relevant company representative.

You might also find the following additional information useful:

- www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/news/pages/05122016-labelling-requirements
- www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/whs-information/hazardous-chemicals/labelling/pages/labelling

Details on your local state or territory WHS regulator can be found here:

- www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/who-we-work-with/regulators/pages/whs-regulators

CONTACTS

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CROPLIFE AUSTRALIA MEMBER COMPANIES

