



INFORMATION LETTER N°1699

Date: September 9, 2019

Information: IOFI Updates GHS Implementation Overview

Topic: Status of GHS Implementation

Category: Classification and Labeling of Chemicals for Global Trade

Key Message: IOFI has updated its comprehensive nation-by-nation overview of the implementation of the United Nations Globally Harmonized System (GHS). Introduced via IL 1516, this resource on the IOFI Member Network (MN) assists companies engaged in global trade. Please note the following major changes since the last update:

- Transition periods have ended and GHS implementation is now complete for both mixtures and substances in **Mexico**. Hence, Table 2 (“Countries where GHS is implemented for substances, in transition period for mixtures”) is currently empty.
- **South Africa** has been moved from table 5 (“Countries where GHS implementation is voluntary”) to table 4 (“Countries where GHS implementation is pending or intended”).
- Information on **Bahrain, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Kenya, Qatar, Senegal** and **Venezuela** has been added to the overview.

For more details, please visit the IOFI [Member Network](#): Member Resources → 06. IOFI-IFRA Labeling Manual → GHS Implementation.

For ease of reference, updates are highlighted in yellow.

Background: The UN GHS is a globally harmonized approach for classification and labeling that includes categories of hazard class based on potency and uses pictograms and signal words along with hazard and precautionary statements. The goals of the GHS approach are to protect workers who handle chemicals in production and transit, to support user safety and to safeguard the environment. Also available on the IOFI MN is the last version of the IOFI/IFRA GHS Labeling Manual (IL 1663) that informs members about labeling requirements for 2003 substances and natural complex substances (NCS).

Related Information Letters: 1647, 1603, 1588, 1553, 1552, 1532, 1525, 1516

Potential Impact to Industry: IOFI members are encouraged to comply with GHS requirements. This tool will assist members in staying abreast of local rules for implementation.

Required Action: IOFI requests that all members share this Information Letter with colleagues who are responsible for global trade.

For further information: Please contact IOFI (secretariat@iofi.org).