

Globally-Harmonized System (GHS)

Part 1 :About The GHS

KANDUNGAN

1. GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM (GHS)

Chemicals, through the different steps from their production to their handling, transport and use, are a real danger for human health and the environment. People of any ages, from children to elderly, using many different languages and alphabets, belonging to various social conditions, including illiterates, are daily confronted to dangerous products (chemicals, pesticides, etc.)

As a result, a number of countries or organizations have developed laws or regulations that require information to be prepared and transmitted to those using chemicals, through labels or Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

While these existing laws or regulations are similar in many respects, their differences are significant enough to result in different labels or SDS for the same product in different countries.

To face this danger, and given the reality of the extensive global trade in chemicals and the need to develop national programs to ensure their safe use, transport and disposal, it was recognized that an internationally-harmonized approach to classification and labelling would provide the foundation for such programs. Once countries have consistent and appropriate information on the chemicals they import or produce in their own countries, the infrastructure to control chemical exposures and protect people and the environment can be established in a comprehensive manner.

The new system, which was called "Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)", addresses classification of chemicals by types of hazard and proposes harmonized hazard communication elements, including labels and safety data sheets. It aims at ensuring that information on physical hazards and toxicity from chemicals be available in order to enhance the protection of human health and the environment during the handling, transport and use of these chemicals. The GHS also provides a basis for harmonization of rules and regulations on chemicals at national, regional and worldwide level, an important factor also for trade facilitation.

While governments, regional institutions and international organizations are the primary audiences for the GHS, it also contains sufficient context and guidance for those in industry who will ultimately be implementing the requirements which have been adopted.

The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), adopted in Johannesburg in 2002, encourages countries to implement the GHS as soon as possible.

Penaung

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Penasihat

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Aktiviti OSH Jabatan Kimia Sabah

Pemeriksaan Premis Bagi Tujuan Menghapuskan Bahaya Kebakaran Di Bawah Akta Perkhidmatan Bomba 1988

Pada 2 Februari 2010 seramai 4 orang Pegawai Bomba, 4 orang wakil daripada kontraktor penyelenggara sistem keselamatan bangunan dan 4 orang pegawai pengiring daripada Kimia Sabah telah menjalankan pemeriksaan sistem keselamatan kebakaran di bangunan Kimia Sabah.



Program Kesedaran Penggunaan Peralatan Perlindungan Keselamatan Diri (P.P.E.) pada 12 Februari 2010

TAJUK: OHSAS 18001 SOP 442C: *Personal Protective Equipment – Issuance, Maintenance, Inspection And Training.*

PENCERAMAH: Pn. Zainun Saibol .
Pembacaan SOP OHSAS merupakan program yang diadakan secara berkala iaitu sebulan sekali dan kebiasaannya diadakan bersama dengan Perhimpunan Bulanan Jabatan Kimia Sabah. Selain itu, pembacaan OSH Bulletin Kimia Malaysia juga diadakan.



TAJUK: *Personal Protective Equipment – “Hand Protection”*

PENCERAMAH: Daripada SainsTrade Sdn Bhd / 3M Kota Kinabalu.

Seramai 4 orang penceramah daripada syarikat berkenaan datang untuk memberi khidmat nasihat dan cara-cara penggunaan , penyelenggaraan dan pemilihan yang sesuai untuk alat perlindungan tangan seperti sarung tangan keselamatan (Gloves) di tempat kerja.



Pemungutan dan pemunggahan sisa bahan kimia berjadual, berbahaya dan bahan kimia luput tarikh oleh syarikat Petrojadi Sdn Bhd Kota Kinabalu Sabah pada 31/03/2010.

Sisa bahan kimia tersebut akan dihantar ke premis kualiti alam Negeri sembilan untuk tujuan pelupusan.



Aktiviti OSH Jabatan Kimia Sabah

Kerja-kerja pencucian bangunan jabatan Kimia Sabah bermula pada 12 Mac 2010.

Sebelum memulakan kerja, pihak pengurusan telah memberi Taklimat induksi keselamatan & kesihatan supaya pekerja memahami tentang prosedur keselamatan semasa bekerja di premis jabatan. Pekerja adalah diwajibkan menggunakan peralatan keselamatan perlindungan diri yang sesuai semasa bekerja. Kontraktor juga diberi taklimat tentang sistem sekuriti jabatan ketika berada di dalam premis jabatan.



Pekerja yang melakukan kerja-kerja pencucian bangunan telah dibekalkan dengan peralatan keselamatan seperti *safety helmet*, *safety harness* *safety shoes* dan *gloves* yang sesuai ketika bekerja.

Kenderaan lori "sky-lifter" yang digunakan telah menjalankan pemeriksaan oleh DOSH dan sijil "fit to use" juga telah diperolehi. Sabun pencuci yang digunakan mempunyai label pada bekasnya dan maklumat keselamatan tentang penggunaannya telah diterangkan kepada pekerja oleh pegawai OSH.



Pada 19.5.2010, dua orang Pegawai DOSH Kota Kinabalu telah datang untuk menjalankan kerja-kerja Pemeriksaan Ulangan (Kelayakan Jentera) untuk satu unit Autoclave Sterilizer di Makmal Mikrobiologi Kimia Malaysia Sabah. Mereka diiringi oleh Pegawai OSH En. Biling, Pegawai Makmal Pn. Suhana dan Pembantu Makmal Kanan En. Boniface.



SICK BUILDING SYNDROME

Source: http://www.health24.com/medical/Focus_centres/777-2268-3852-4254,26831.asp

What is sick building syndrome?

This is the name given to the phenomenon when people who regularly occupy a building (like office workers) experience various troublesome symptoms, mainly when they spend time there. The symptoms tend to be flu- or allergy-like, and may include headaches, burning or itching eyes, stuffy nose, sneezing, coughing, sore throat, tight chest, dry or itchy skin, dizziness, difficulty concentrating, nausea and fatigue. People prone to asthma or allergies may find that their usual symptoms worsen while in the suspect building.

What causes it?

Sick building syndrome is controversial because it's difficult to definitively link the wide range of symptoms people experience to a recognised illness, or to identify a specific cause. Nonetheless, there are some well-established prime suspects. The syndrome is thought to be the result of poor indoor air quality, caused in turn by inadequate ventilation, faulty or poorly maintained air conditioning systems, and a wide array of indoor chemical pollutants. Indoor air pollution can occur in any building, but is particularly common in modern office blocks, which often have sealed windows and ventilation systems that re-circulate much of the interior air.

Most indoor air pollution comes from indoor sources. Individual pollutants may be present only at low levels, but the combined effect of numerous pollutants can be harmful. Many building materials and office supplies emit small amounts of toxins. Examples of common sources include: chemically treated wood, plywood and particle board in furniture and fittings; paint; glues; upholstery; curtains; carpets; aerosols; construction materials; cleaning agents; deodorisers and perfumes; photocopy machines, felt-tip pens and correction fluids.

Although separate smoking and non-smoking zones are now a legal requirement in workplaces, air contaminated with smoke can spread if it is not contained and if ventilation is poor. Secondhand smoke contains hundreds of toxic chemicals that can irritate eyes, nose and throat and cause headaches and nausea. Air can also become contaminated with biological agents. Moulds and bacteria thrive in poorly maintained air conditioning systems or in dirty, damp patches, such as in bathrooms or around leaky pipes. When organisms grow in ventilation systems, they can spread throughout a building.

Polluted outdoor air may also enter a building and add to indoor pollution. For example, pollutants from motor vehicle traffic, from garages nearby or beneath the building, and from the building's own exhaust vents, can enter through poorly located air intake vents and other openings. Carbon monoxide gas, a component of car exhaust, is one of the common pollutants that can seep into offices from

outside. It can cause fatigue, headache, dizziness and nausea. If inhaled over long time periods, it may affect co-ordination and worsen heart problems.

Nursing a sick building back to health

Tracking down the source of a building's malaise often involves serious detective work, and may require the services of a health and safety and/ or air quality expert. However, the following simple measures should help relieve the problem, if not entirely neutralise the cause:

Ban tobacco smoke

Campaign for a smoke-free building. Failing that, make sure your workplace complies with the exact letter of the law: no more than 25% of the space can be designated a smoking area. That area needs to be physically isolated from the rest of the interior i.e. it needs to be enclosed and the smoky air vented to the exterior of the building.

Get air flowing

Air circulation in offices can be impeded by partitions. Try raising the base of these further off the floor, or occasionally moving their position. If you work in an older building without air conditioning, keep windows and doors open whenever possible, and use or enquire about installing ceiling fans. Standing fans also help pull in fresh air from outside and keep it circulating.

Get out!

Try to get out of the office on your lunch breaks – preferably somewhere with good natural ventilation. Even a walk round the block should help; if your building is “sick”, then chances are the indoor pollution is worse than that outside.

Meet your building manager

Find out who's responsible for maintenance of the ventilation system – and when it was last checked. All ventilation, heating or cooling systems, including humidifiers, dehumidifiers and air filters, need to be regularly cleaned and adjusted. Also report any signs of damp or mould, and if the air feels excessively humid or dry.

Reduce potential indoor air pollution sources

If construction or renovation is planned in a section of your building, motivate to have this part left unoccupied for a few weeks (the longer the better), or at least for it to be thoroughly ventilated. This helps reduce exposure to any chemical pollutants from new building materials. Also ask if cleaning can be done at times of low building occupancy.



Asbestos Information

What Is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a mineral fiber found in rocks, of naturally occurring silicate minerals that can be separated into fibers. There are several kinds of asbestos fibers, all of which are fire resistant and not easily destroyed or degraded by natural processes.



The fibers are strong, durable, and resistant to heat and fire. They are also long, thin and flexible, so that they can even be woven into cloth, because of these qualities, asbestos has been used in thousands of consumer, industrial, maritime, automotive, scientific and building products.

During the twentieth century, some 30 million tons of asbestos have been used in industrial sites, homes, schools, shipyards and commercial buildings in the United States. There are several types of asbestos fibers, of which three have been used for commercial applications: (1) Chrysotile, or white asbestos, comes mainly from Canada, and has been very widely used in the US. It is white-gray in color and found in serpentine rock. (2) Amosite, or brown asbestos, comes from southern Africa. (3) Crocidolite, or blue asbestos, comes from southern Africa and Australia.

Is Asbestos Dangerous?



Asbestos has been shown to cause cancer of the lung and stomach according to studies of workers and others exposed to asbestos. There is no level of exposure to asbestos fibers that experts can assure is completely safe. Some asbestos materials can break into small fibers which can float in the air and these fibers can be inhaled. The tiny fibers are so small they can not be seen with the naked eye. They can pass through the filters of normal vacuum cleaners and get back into the air. Once inhaled, asbestos fibers can become lodged in tissue for a long time. After many years cancer or mesothelioma can develop.

Are All products With Asbestos A Health Risk?

No. A health risk exists only when asbestos fibers are released from the material or product. Soft, easily crumbled asbestos containing material has the greatest potential for asbestos release and therefore has the greatest potential to create health risks.

Do All People Exposed To Asbestos, Develop Asbestos Related Disease?

No. Most people exposed to small amounts of asbestos do not develop any related health problems. Health studies of asbestos workers and others, however, show that the chances of developing some serious illnesses, included lung cancer, are greater after exposure to asbestos.

What Are Asbestos-Containing Products?

What is common to many asbestos-containing products is that they were (are) used to contain heat (i.e. thermal insulation.) This was the main reason for their use. It is impossible to list all of the products that have, at one time or another, contained asbestos. One of the most common products asbestos is found in, is in the insulation material found on heating pipes and ducts of homes built before 1960.

Some of the other common asbestos-containing products are insulating cement, insulating block, asbestos cloth, gaskets, packing materials, thermal seals, refractory and boiler insulation materials, transite board, asbestos cement pipe, fireproofing spray, joint compound, vinyl floor tile, ceiling tile, mastics, adhesives, coatings, acoustical textures, duct & pipe insulation for heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, roofing products, insulated electrical wire and panels, and brake and clutch assemblies.

How Can I tell if I Have Asbestos in My Home?

People who have frequently worked with asbestos (such as plumbers, building contractors or heating contractors) often are able to make a reasonable judgment about whether or not a material contains asbestos on a visual inspection. Many professional home inspectors also can make a reasonable visual judgment. To be absolutely certain, an industrial hygienist would have to make the identification.