HazCom/GHS Deadline Approaching

The deadline to have all your employees trained on OSHA’s new Hazard Communication Standard is December 1, 2013. That leaves only a few business days to train your workers. OSHA’s resource page for this change, along with training materials, can be found at https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html.

Look for OSHA to visit businesses in the first quarter of 2014, asking for documentation of this training. Right now, the only thing required is essentially talking. We must train our workers on the fact that HazCom is incorporating the Globally Harmonized System. Here’s the essential changes:

1) Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) will be changed to Safety Data Sheets (SDS). The new SDS’s will all have the same 16 categories of information in the same order on all sheets. Right now, with MSDS’s, many of them look quite different from one another.

2) Pictograms are being incorporated into labels on chemical containers (see below):

3) By June of 2015 (yes, 2015) manufacturers are required to have all these labels changed. At that point, you’ll have to change your MSDS books to SDS books.