ChemAlert.

Perpetual Research Less Risk

Special points of interest:

- New GHS framework has 5 year transition period.

- ChemAlert now available on Apple iPhone and iPad.

- New eLearning package available.

- First look details on the next release of ChemAlert.

- Silica - Does it cause cancer?

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Globally Harmonized System (GHS)

Over the years, I have seen many changes relating to the compilation of Safety Data Sheets (SDSs). However, none more significant than the changes which will completely revolutionise the way we classify hazardous substances.........the GHS.

So what is the GHS?

GHS stands for 'Globally Harmonised System', which is intended to be a consistent approach to classifying hazardous chemicals around the world. It is communicated on labels and SDSs and is designed to provide a common framework for countries using different classification systems, or none at all.

From an Australian perspective, the GHS will replace the existing Risk and Safety Phrase classification system.

How does the GHS Work?

The GHS is divided into distinct Physical, Health, and Environmental Hazard Classifications. In simple terms, each Classification has a Hazard Category, Pictogram, Signal Word and Hazard Statement, followed by many Precautionary Statements (Prevention, Response, Storage and Disposal). An example may appear as follows:

GHS Classification(s): Skin Corrosion/Irritation: Category 1A

Signal Word: Danger

Hazard Statement(s): Causes severe skin burns and eye damage.

Prevention Statement(s): Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. (etc)

Response Statement(s): IF ON SKIN (or hair): Remove/Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water/shower. (etc)

Simple?

The GHS is a complex system, but ChemAlert have been preparing for its inclusion for several years now and I can confidently say that we are GHS-ready.

Whilst it may take some time for manufacturers to adopt the new classification rules (there may be a 5 year grace period from 1/1/2012), many of our ChemAlert reports already adopt the GHS classifications.

Further Information

If you have any queries regarding the GHS and how it works, please do not hesitate to contact us and we would be more than happy to assist. Alternatively, the GHS Classifications for several thousand chemicals can be accessed from the European CLP/GHS database found at: http://ecb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/classification-labelling/clp/.

- Vince Pacecca

ChemAlert on iPhone / iPad

ChemAlert is now available as two applications on Apple iPhone and iPad devices.

Containing essential reference information such as First Aid, PPE, Risk and Safety Phrases, DG Classifications, and GHS information, it is an ideal tool for keeping employees safe anywhere, anytime.

The application is available on the Apple iStore for AU$9.49, and links to an extensive online database that is kept up-to-date by RMT's scientific team.

A full (subscribers) version is also available through the Apple iStore. This version is an extension of the existing ChemAlert application and gives access to all current products on the ChemAlert database as well as the original and unaltered manufacturers Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and ChemAlert Full reports.

Contact your account manager if you would like to arrange a token to be able to access this functionality.

Kevin Harris (Account Manager) at the *Safety In Action* tradeshow.

A **big** thank you to all those people who are using the new *SDS Upload* feature in v3.2, helping to keep SDSs up-to-date.

New ChemAlert DG/ GHS Pocket Card, given out at tradeshows.

Product Spotlight

Did you know that ChemAlert v3.2 allows you to merge multiple items on the Stock Register, and therefore the Stock Holdings?

This means duplicated stock entries can easily be merged, and chemical substitution becomes a breeze.

To use this functionality, select one or more products in the Stock Register that you want substituted, then right-click and select *Replace Stock Register Item(s)...* You will then be asked to select the product that is to replace all of the items you previously selected.

Service Team Increase

The ChemAlert services team has expanded! The last 12 months has seen ChemAlert hire an additional Auditor and two more Scientific Advisors / Trainers.

Auditors are able to provide Implementations (profiling your site and entering the data into ChemAlert) as well as Chemical Safety Audits (including recommendations to improve your chemical storage practices, assisting in meeting legislative requirements).

Ensure your staff have the necessary skills and understanding to maximize their ability to manage chemicals in your workplace by using our ChemAlert training services.

A member of our team of scientifically-qualified ChemAlert experts are able to come to your site and deliver a training course tailored to your needs. Public training courses are still conducted in capital cities around Australia twice a year.

Enquire today for a member of our professional services team to come and visit your site, whether it be for training, an implementation or a full chemical safety audit.

- Lisa Doust

Next Release... version 3.3

ChemAlert v3.3 development is nearing completion with plenty of new features planned, including:

- GHS code-of-practice new enhancements
- GHS Labels
- Minimum Exemption limits applied for Storage Incompatibilities
- Adding multiple products to Risk Assessments

- Chemical Request search facility
- Enhanced reporting

ChemAlert v3.3 is expected to be released during the second quarter 2012.

We always love to hear your enhancement suggestions, which can be emailed through to casupport@rmt.com.au.

Tradeshows

ChemAlert will be on display at the following events this year:

- Australasian Oil & Gas Exhibition
- Safety in Action
- Hazmat
- AIOH Annual Conference
- Mackay—Bowen Mining Expo

SaaS Hosting

Did you know that RMT can host your ChemAlert software over the Internet, potentially saving thousands of dollars in internal infrastructure, maintenance, management, and staffing costs?

Our "Software as a Service" offering, housed within a professional data centre in New South Wales, is used by hundreds of smart clients.

For more information, contact info@rmt.com.au.

Scientific Spotlight

Does Silica cause cancer?

The answer is "*It depends on the size and form.*"

Silica comes from silicon dioxide, which itself is a ubiquitous mineral forming part of the earth's crust. The type of silica associated with lung cancer is respirable crystalline silica – quartz, which is less than 10μm in size (NIOSH); particles small enough to lodge in the alveoli of the lungs, and cause damage.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer states that "crystalline silica inhaled in the form of quartz or cristobalite from occupational sources is carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)".

So, the next time you take a walk on the beach, rest assured: the silica present in sand is far greater than 10μm in diameter and therefore not carcinogenic!

- Wendy Saw

Stock Holdings

A sample eLearning site showing the 3 phases of eLearning:

Demo

Try Me

Test Me

"We should all **be concerned** about the **future** because we will have to spend the **rest** of our lives there." - Charles F Kettering

The New ChemAlert GHS report, to be released with v3.3.

New eLearning

A new eLearning (electronic learning) application has been developed which offers a time and cost effective method of training any number of users.

Training options available are now expanded to include:

- Public forum in capital cities

- Client onsite courses

- Electronic media training as eLearning or online Tutorials.

Training is important as it helps users to understand why chemical compliance is necessary, how to understand reports in order to keep themselves and others protected from harmful exposure to chemicals, as well as teaching them the most efficient way to comply with legislative requirements.

The new eLearning training option will allow users to increase their ChemAlert proficiency anywhere an Internet connection exists and at any time of day or night. This can better accommodate night-shift resources, or staff that find it difficult to block out a day for training.

A downloadable option is already available that plugs into any SCORM-compliant LMS, enabling organisations to track attempts and training scores upon completion. This enables ChemAlert training results to be fed directly into HR management systems.

However, a SCORM-compliant LMS is not necessary for you to access these training modules; they are also available as standalone training modules and also non interactive training videos.

From single user licenses to international organisations, ChemAlert has your training requirements covered.

Contact your Account Manager if you would like further information about any one of our training options. info@rmt.com.au

Application eDelivery

ChemAlert is always looking for new and innovative ideas on how to be a responsible corporate citizen. These innovations tend to be good for the environment, lower the production cost of ChemAlert, and most importantly lower the total cost of ownership (TCO) for our clients.

An example innovation was the inclusion of the Auto Product Update (APU) engine. This feature released in v3.0 meant your database is kept up-to-date over the Internet at all times. As a result, we send out less releases, burn less DVDs, and your IT team doesn't have to coordinate and install regular updates.

The latest innovation from RMT is application eDelivery. ChemAlert will now be shipping predominantly as a download link to clients. This reduces; the amount of DVD media ending up as landfill, packaging (saving trees which recycle carbon), and enables faster delivery of the latest upgrades directly to your email account.

Of course, your business may require a physical installation disk for many reasons, and we will gladly send you an installation DVD upon request at no additional cost.

The Final Word

As 2012 begins and we take a moment to reflect on what has been achieved last year, we're excited! ChemAlert has never had more activity than right now; with a larger scientific team, more trainers and auditors, more technical support staff, and even more developers.

We now have over 120,000 products on the database, an iPhone/ iPad app, electronic learning systems, and hundreds of clients hosted in the ChemAlert data center located in Sydney .

The growth of ChemAlert has been brought about by the support of the ChemAlert community, and 2012 will see greater development into this area with an inbuilt news module, greater prominence of client SDS uploading, and more visibility of your chemical compliance.

So, on behalf of all the staff at Risk Management Technologies, we look forward to working with you through this year and beyond, and thank-you for being a part of the best chemical management system in the world.

- Brad Cobb & Vince Pacecca

P.S. The final versions of the Code of Practice for writing Safety Data Sheets and Labelling of Hazardous Chemicals have now been published on the Safe Work Australia website.