

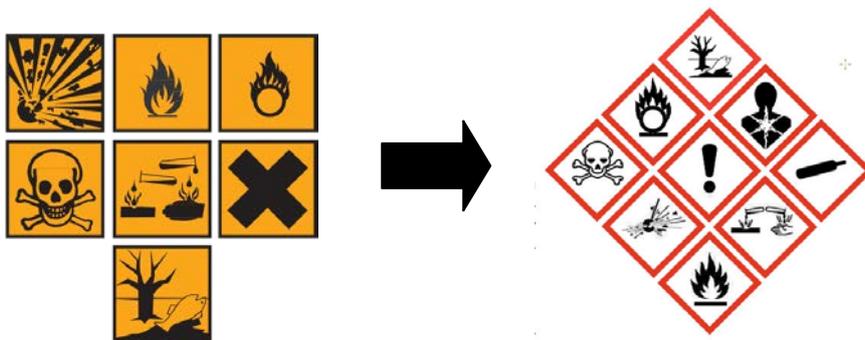
CLP - requirements for the classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals

Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP) aligns EU legislation with the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), a United Nations system to identify hazardous chemicals and to inform users about these hazards. GHS has been adopted by many countries around the world.

CLP replaced the Dangerous Substance Directive 67/548/EEC (DSD) applicable for chemical **substances** in December 2010.

Now, from 1 June 2015, CLP will be the only legislation to apply to the classification and labelling of both substances and mixtures, and will also replace the Dangerous Preparations Directive 1999/45/EC (DPD) for mixtures. CLP requires companies to classify, label and package their hazardous chemicals appropriately before placing them on the market.

New red-framed pictograms will replace the familiar orange danger symbols:



CLP is changing the classification system for identifying and describing chemical hazards in Europe, and the way that this information is communicated on labels, in safety data sheets and other documents.

This implies that some of the existing chemical substances and mixtures may change in classification, or become classified as hazardous for the first time, even if the chemical formulation itself has not changed.

If the classification of the products has changed, it is needed to review the risk assessments and safe working practices to make sure that the conditions of use of these substances and mixtures remains safe.

Example

A Mixture was labelled under the DPD as Irritant



R41 Risk of serious damage to eyes.

The new CLP label now carries the corrosive pictogram



Danger

H318 Causes serious eye damage.

The classification criteria for substances and mixtures which cause serious eye irritation are very similar between the DSD or DPD and CLP, and the intrinsic hazard of the mixture is still the same, although the labels are different. If under the previous classification the risks have been properly identified from using the mixture and suitable procedures and control measures to manage the risk are put in place, these measures should still be sufficient to manage the risk with the new CLP labels, and no changes to the existing procedures and control measures are needed.

Transitional period

There is a transitional period of two years for those mixtures that have already been classified, labelled and packaged under the DPD, and which are on the market before June 2015. Such mixtures will only have to be labelled and packaged in accordance with CLP by 1 June 2017.

Safety data sheets meeting current standards will be valid for two years until 1 June 2017, if they are given out before 1 June 2015. However, if the new classification affects the safe use of the product or its risk management measures, the SDS needs to be updated right away.