

GHS Glossary

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Remarks: These definitions are obtained from Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) (Third revised edition) by United Nations

ADR

ADR means the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, as amended.

Alloy

Alloy means a metallic material, homogeneous on a macroscopic scale, consisting of two or more elements so combined that they cannot be readily separate.

Aspiration

Aspiration means the entry of a liquid or solid chemical into the trachea and lower respiratory system directly through the oral or nasal cavity.

ASTM

ASTM means the “American Society of Testing and Materials”

BCF

BCF means “bioconcentration factor”

BOD/COD

BOD/COD means “biochemical oxygen demand/chemical oxygen demand”

CA

CA means “competent authority”

Carcinogen

Carcinogen means a substance or mixtures which induce cancer or increase its incidence

CAS

CAS means “Chemical Abstract Service”

CBI

CBI means “confidential business information”

Chemical identity

Chemical identity means a name that will uniquely identify a chemical. This can be a name that is in accordance with the nomenclature systems of the I...

Competent authority

Competent authority means any national body(ies) or authority(ies) designated or otherwise recognized as such in connection with the Globally Harmoniz...

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Compressed gas

Compressed gas means a gas which when packaged under pressure is entirely gaseous at -50 °C; including all gases with a critical temperature \leq -50 °C

Corrosive to metal

Corrosive to metal means a substance or a mixture which by chemical action will materially damage, or even destroy, metals.

Critical temperature

Critical temperature means the temperature above which a pure gas cannot be liquefied, regardless of the degree of compression

Dermal corrosion

Dermal corrosion: see skin corrosion

Dissolved gas

Dissolved gas means a gas which when packaged under pressure is dissolved in a liquid phase solvent.

Dust

Dust means solid particles of a substance or mixture suspended in a gas (usually air).

EC Number or (ECN)

EC Number or (ECN) is a reference number used by the European Communities to identify dangerous substances, in particular those registered under EINEC...

Flammable gas

Flammable gas means a gas having a flammable range with air at 20 °C and a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa.

Flammable liquid

Flammable liquid means a liquid having a flash point of not more than 93 °C

Flammable solid

Flammable solid means a solid which is readily combustible, or may cause or contribute to fire through friction.

Flash point

Flash point means the lowest temperature (corrected to a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa) at which the application of an ignition source causes the vap...

Gas

Gas means a substance which (i) at 50 °C has a vapour pressure greater than 300 kPa (absolute); or (ii) is completely gaseous at 20 °C at a standard ...

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GESAMP

GESAMP means the “Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection of IMO/FAO/UNESCO/WMO/WHO/IAEA/UN/UNEP”.

GHS

GHS means the “Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals”.

Hazard category

Hazard category means the division of criteria within each hazard class, e.g. oral acute toxicity includes five hazard categories and flammable liquid...

Hazard class

Hazard class means the nature of the physical, health or environmental hazard, e.g. flammable solid, carcinogen, oral acute toxicity.

Hazard statement

Hazard statement means a statement assigned to a hazard class and category that describes the nature of the hazards of a hazardous product, including,...

IAEA

IAEA means the “International Atomic Energy Agency”.

IARC

IARC means the “International Agency for the Research on Cancer”.

ILO

ILO means the “International Labour Organization”.

IMO

IMO means the “International Maritime Organization”.

Initial boiling point

Initial boiling point means the temperature of a liquid at which its vapour pressure is equal to the standard pressure (101.3 kPa)

IOMC

IOMC means the “Inter-organization Programme on the Sound Management of Chemicals”.

IPCS

IPCS means the “International Programme on Chemical Safety”.

ISO

ISO means the “International Organization for Standardization”

IUPAC

IUPAC means the “International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry”

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L(E)C50

L(E)C50 means LC50 or EC50

Label

Label means an appropriate group of written, printed or graphic information elements concerning a hazardous product, selected as relevant to the target...

Label element

Label element means one type of information that has been harmonized for use in a label, e.g. pictogram, signal word.

LC50 (50% lethal concentration)

LC50 (50% lethal concentration) means the concentration of a chemical in air or of a chemical in water which causes the death of 50% (one half) of a group of test animals.

LD50

LD50 means the amount of a chemical, given all at once, which causes the death of 50% (one half) of a group of test animals.

Liquefied gas

Liquefied gas means a gas which when packaged under pressure, is partially liquid at temperatures above - 50 °C. A distinction is made between: (i) H...

Liquid

Liquid means a substance or mixture which at 50 °C has a vapour pressure of not more than 300 kPa (3 bars), which is not completely gaseous at 20 °C and...

MARPOL

MARPOL means the “International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships”

Mist

Mist means liquid droplets of a substance or mixture suspended in a gas (usually air).

Mixture

Mixture means a mixture or a solution composed of two or more substances in which they do not react.

Montreal Protocol

Montreal Protocol means the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer as either adjusted and/or amended by the Parties to the Protocol...

Mutagen

Mutagen means an agent giving rise to an increased occurrence of mutations in populations of cells and /or organisms.

Mutation

Mutation means a permanent change in the amount or structure of the genetic material in a cell

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NGO

NGO means “non-governmental organization”

NOEC (no observed effect concentration)

NOEC (no observed effect concentration) means the test concentration immediately below the lowest tested concentration with statistically significant...

OECD

OECD means the “Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development”.

Organic peroxide

Organic peroxide means a liquid or solid organic substance which contains the bivalent -O-O- structure and may be considered a derivative of hydrogen...

Oxidizing gas

Oxidizing gas means any gas which may, generally by providing oxygen, cause or contribute to the combustion of other material more than air does. NOT...

Oxidizing solid

Oxidizing solid means a solid which, while in itself not necessarily combustible, may, generally by yielding oxygen, cause, or contribute to, the com...

Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP)

Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) means an integrative quantity, distinct for each halocarbon source species that represents the extent of ozone deplet...

Pictogram

Pictogram means a graphical composition that may include a symbol plus other graphic elements, such as a border, background pattern or colour that is...

Oxidizing liquid

Oxidizing liquid means a liquid which, while in itself not necessarily combustible, may, generally by yielding oxygen, cause, or contribute to, the co...

Oxidizing solid

Oxidizing solid means a solid which, while in itself not necessarily combustible, may, generally by yielding oxygen, cause, or contribute to, the com...

Precautionary statement

Precautionary statement means a phrase (and/or pictogram) that describes recommended measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effective.

Product identifier

Product identifier means the name or number used for a hazardous product on a label or in the SDS. It provides a unique means by which the product.

Pyrophoric liquid

Pyrophoric liquid means a liquid which, even in small quantities, is liable of igniting within five minutes after coming into contact with air

Pyrophoric solid

Pyrophoric solid means a solid which, even in small quantities, is liable of igniting within five minutes after coming into contact with air.

Pyrotechnic article

Pyrotechnic article means an article containing one or more pyrotechnic substances

Pyrotechnic substance

Pyrotechnic substance means a substance or mixture of substances designed to produce an effect by heat, light, sound, gas or smoke or a combination of...

QSAR

QSAR means “quantitative structure-activity relationship”

Readily combustible solid

Readily combustible solid means powdered, granular, or pasty substance or mixture which is dangerous if it can be easily ignited by brief contact with...

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria mean the latest revised edition of the United Nations publication b...

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations mean the latest revised edition of the United Nations publication bearing this...

Refrigerated liquefied gas

Refrigerated liquefied gas means a gas which when packaged is made partially liquid because of its low temperature.

Respiratory sensitizer

Respiratory sensitizer means a substance that induces hypersensitivity of the airways following inhalation of the substance

RID

RID means The Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail [Annex 1 to Appendix B (Uniform Rules concerning the Contr)]...

SAR

SAR means “Structure Activity Relationship”

SDS

SDS means “Safety Data Sheet”.

Self-accelerating decomposition temperature (SADT)

Self-accelerating decomposition temperature (SADT) means the lowest temperature at which selfaccelerating decomposition may occur with substance as p...

Self-heating substance

Self-heating substance means a solid or liquid substance, other than a pyrophoric substance, which, by reaction with air and without energy supply, is...

Self-reactive substance

Self-reactive substance means a thermally unstable liquid or solid substance liable to undergo a strongly exothermic decomposition even without partic...

Serious eye damage

Serious eye damage means the production of tissue damage in the eye, or serious physical decay of vision, following application of a test substance t...

Signal word

Signal word means a word used to indicate the relative level of severity of hazard and alert the reader to a potential hazard on the label. The GHS u...

Skin corrosion

Skin corrosion means the production of irreversible damage to the skin following the application of a test substance for up to 4 hours.

Skin irritation

Skin irritation means the production of reversible damage to the skin following the application of a test substance for up to 4 hours.

Skin sensitizer

Skin sensitizer means a substance that will induce an allergic response following skin contact.

Solid

Solid means a substance or mixture which does not meet the definitions of liquid or gas

Substance

Substance means chemical elements and their compounds in the natural state or obtained by any production process, including any additive necessary to ...

Substance which, in contact with water, emits flammable gases

Substance which, in contact with water, emits flammable gases means a solid or liquid substance or mixture which, by interaction with water, is liable...

Supplemental label element

Supplemental label element means any additional non-harmonized type of information supplied on the container of a hazardous product that is not require

Symbol

Symbol means a graphical element intended to succinctly convey information

Technical name

Technical name means a name that is generally used in commerce, regulations and codes to identify a substance or mixture, other than the IUPAC or CAS...

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UN

UN means the “United Nations”

UNCED

UNCED means the “United Nations Conference on Environment and Development”.

UNCETDG/GHS

UNCETDG/GHS means the “United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classificatio...”

UNEP

UNEP means the “United Nations Environment Programme”.

UNESCO

UNESCO means the “United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization”.

UNITAR

UNITAR means the “United Nations Institute for Training and Research”.

UNSCEGHS

UNSCEGHS means the “United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals”.

UNSCETDG

UNSCETDG means the “United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods”.

Vapour

Vapour means the gaseous form of a substance or mixture released from its liquid or solid state

WHO

WHO means the “World Health Organization”.

WMO

WMO means the “World Meteorological Organization”.