

## GHS – Safe Work Australia Update

### Background

Globally Harmonised System (GHS) for classification and labelling of chemicals was introduced into Australian legislation in the model Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 and Regulation 2011 under a five year transition period due to end 31 December 2016.

Safe Work Australia has subsequently reviewed the ongoing legislative requirements once the transition period has ended and has proposed a new position that varies the labelling requirements for those persons conducting a business or undertaking who are end users of hazardous chemicals.

Safe Work Australia (SWA) is proposing to introduce amendments to the model WHS Regulation to clarify this position which will affirm that manufacturers and suppliers, and not the end user, will be responsible for GHS labelling.

### Changes to Labelling Requirements

It has been confirmed by Safe Work Australia that those persons conducting a business or undertaking considered to be end users of hazardous chemicals, such as The University of New England, will not be required to relabel or amend labels on existing stock chemicals to reflect GHS requirements **provided they are compliant with current labelling requirements**. Please see examples below of compliant labelling both pre and post 1 January 2017.

Those chemicals which are currently not compliant with existing legislative requirements will need to be labelled in accordance with GHS requirements prior to 1 January 2017.

Please note, the changes relate to persons conducting a business or undertaking who are end users of hazardous chemicals only. Suppliers and manufacturers of hazardous chemicals will still need to comply with GHS labelling requirements from 1 January 2017.

### What does this mean for The University?

As suppliers and manufacturers are still required to label all chemicals in accordance with GHS after 31 December 2016 it is likely most UNE areas will soon stock a mixture of chemicals labelled under both systems if they don't already do so.

Laboratory managers and supervisors will need to ensure all staff and students are familiar with both labelling systems including pictograms, safety and risk phrases, hazard statements, signal words etc. All training delivered including inductions will need to ensure familiarity with both labelling systems until such time as all chemicals in stock are only labelled with GHS compliant labels.

Alternatively, existing chemical stock can still be relabelled, or have labels amended, to reflect the incoming GHS requirements and avoid the need for continued training in both systems.

Please note all Safety Data Sheets (SDS) generated after 1 January 2017 must be GHS compliant and therefore the contents and wording may differ to non GHS chemical labels.

## Compliant Chemical Labels

Chemicals purchased or generated prior to 1 January 2017 may be labelled in accordance with the *Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals code of practice: 2015* (NSW Government, Workcover); and Schedule 9 of the WHS Regulation (NSW, 2011)

A label may include the product identifier, dangerous goods pictogram and risk and safety phrases (in English). As a minimum the label must include the product identifier and risk and safety phrases for decanted substances.

Wash with running water; Give water (if conscious); Seek medical advice; Fresh air; Rest, keep warm; If breathing shallow, give oxygen; Medical attention; Remove contaminated clothing; Wash with soap & water.

Highly flammable; Irritating to eyes; Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness and cracking; Vapours may cause drowsiness and dizziness.

Keep out of reach of children; Keep container in a well ventilated place; Keep away from sources of ignition. No smoking; In case of contact with eyes, rinse with plenty of water and contact Doctor or Poisons Information Centre; If swallowed, seek medical advice immediately and show this container or label.

**HAZARDOUS**

**ACETONE  
(ACETONE)**

ACETONE (ACETONE), 67-64-1, 95-99.5 %

Product number

Batch number

UN number: 1090



**ACETONE**



Store in cool, dry protected area. Restrictions on Storage apply. Refer to Full Report. Use only in well ventilated areas. Take precautionary measures against static discharges. Dispose of this material and its container at hazardous or special waste collection point. Keep out of reach of children. Keep container in a well ventilated place. Keep away from sources of ignition. No smoking.

Appendage 014; 8  
Abbott Road Seven  
Hills 2147 NSW  
Australia; +61 02 9839  
4000; +61 2 9674 6225



**ACETONE (ACETONE) DANGER**

Ingredients:  
ACETONE (ACETONE), 67-64-1, 95-99.5 %

Hazard Statements:  
H225 - Highly flammable liquid and vapour.  
H310 - Causes serious eye irritation.  
H330 - May cause drowsiness or dizziness.  
H332 - Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness and cracking.

Precautionary Statements:  
Keep away from heat/sparks/open flames/hot surfaces. - No smoking. Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area. Avoid breathing mist/vapours/spray. Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection. Ground/bond container and receiving equipment. Use explosion-proof electrical/ventilating/lighting/intrinsically safe equipment. Use only non-sparking tools. Take precautionary measures against static discharge.



Chemicals purchased or generated after 1 January 2017 must be labelled in accordance with GHS requirements and may include the product identifier, GHS hazard pictogram, signal word and hazard and precautionary statements.

As a minimum the label must include the product identifier and hazard pictogram or hazard statement.

3 None  
HAZCHEM: -2YE Packing group: II  
**UN number: 1090**

Proper Shipping Name  
**ACETONE**



Batch No. Expiry Date Qty  
Product No. Lot No. Net Qty



For further details please refer to the Safety Data Sheet.

In case of fire: Use alcohol resistant foam or normal protein foam for extinction; IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing; Call a POISON CENTER or doctor/physician if you feel unwell; If eye irritation persists; Get medical advice/attention; IF ON SKIN (or hair): Remove/Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water/shower; IF INHALED: Remove victim to fresh air and keep at rest in a position comfortable for breathing.

Appendage 014; 8 Abbott  
Road Seven Hills 2147  
NSW Australia; +61 02  
9839 4000; +61 2 9674  
6225

Contact Details

## Contact for Further information

UNE Work Health and Safety Team: [whs@une.edu.au](mailto:whs@une.edu.au) or 6773 3232

Document Reference	Procedure Reference	Version	Effective Date	Review Date	Page Number	Date Printed
WHS F043	n/a	1.0	25/11/2016	25/11/2019	2	25/11/2016