

NAPIM EHS Committee Reviews Health Hazard Classifications

As a result of the complexity of the GHS-based mixture classification procedure which is now part of the OSHA Hazard Communication procedure the EHS committee is reviewing the classifications of various chemical compounds used in printing inks.

Background

OSHA adopted the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labeling of Chemical (GHS) in 2012 aligning the Hazard Communication (HazCom) Standard (29CFR 1910.1200) with the GHS. The largest impacts of the HazCom/GHS “alignment” were the revisions to appendices A (health hazards) and B (physical hazards) of the standard. The changes that were made (this was not a complete adoption of the GHS) were based on the current (at the time) version of the GHS (i.e. Version III). GHS is revised frequently. As of 2018 the most current GHS is version IV.

Classification of chemicals using the OSHA HazCom standard under Appendices A and B may not be consistent with the version of GHS in use in other geographic regions.

Impact on US Printing Inks

The Safety Data Sheets (SDS) created for printing inks (mixtures) are almost solely developed using raw material supplier classifications and mixture classification rules (e.g. concentration cut-off’s, etc.). The health hazard classification of a mixture can differ when the component raw material has been misclassified or classified under a GHS version or implementation that is different than OSHA HazCom health hazard classification specified in Appendix A of the OSHA HazCom standard.

Purpose

To eliminate confusion in the customer base (i.e. printers) the NAPIM EHS committee has undertaken a program aimed at identifying printing ink raw materials which are known to have health hazard classifications which are inconsistent with the health hazard classification procedure specified in Appendix A of the HazCom standard. These materials along with their recommended health classification, associated concentration cut-off and CAS number are listed below. This applies to printing inks sold in the US only.

Outreach

The results of these review will be posted as “Recommended Classifications” on the Safety Data Sheet Classification page on the NAPIMmember’s website (<https://napimtech.org/SDS/ChemPageList>)

Please submit any printing ink raw materials for review and consideration to George Fuchs at the NAPIM office.