

Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

As of January 2017, the new Australian Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations require an updated system of labelling for chemicals based on the GHS.



The Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is an internationally agreed system of chemical classification and hazard communication through labelling and Safety Data Sheets (SDS). The GHS is published by the United Nations.

As of January 2017, the new Australian Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations require an updated system of labelling for chemicals based on the GHS¹. As a result, manufacturers and importers of hazardous chemicals have five years from January 2012 (i.e until 31 December 2016) to move to the new labelling system.

This is an industry-wide change across Australia and more detailed information is available through:

1. Safe Work Australia website: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au
2. Labelling of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals – Code of Practice. This Code of Practice is under section 274 of the Work Health and Safety Act (WHS Act).

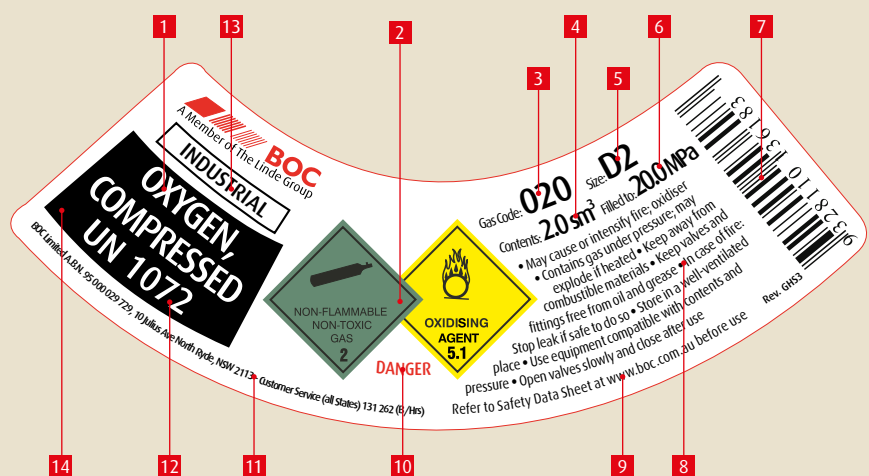
Most gases are classified as a hazardous chemical. Therefore in preparation for January 2017, BOC will be updating labels and SDS's to be compliant with GHS. Due to the size of the cylinder fleet, we have already started this process.

As a result, you may start noticing that the labels on your gas cylinders and SDS's vary slightly so that they are now compliant with GHS.

Always refer to the SDS prior to using a gas. SDS's are available at www.boc.com.au.

Common layout of GHS compliant cylinder label

- 1 Gas name (UN Proper Shipping Name)
- 2 Dangerous Goods Classification
- 3 BOC gas code
- 4 Contents of cylinder at standard temperature and pressure (15°C @ 101.3 kPa)
- 5 Cylinder size
- 6 Fill Pressure
- 7 Material barcode
- 8 GHS Hazard and Precaution Statements
- 9 Safety Data Sheet location
- 10 GHS Signal Word
- 11 Customer Engagement Centre contact details
- 12 United Nations numbering system for safe handling, transport and storage
- 13 Gas grade
- 14 Please note: black background only applies to Industrial Oxygen



1. There are several types of hazardous chemical that are excluded from the labelling provisions under Regulation 335 or exempted from coverage from all provisions in Part 7.1 of the WHS Regulations. One exemption is therapeutic goods which are regarded as correctly labelled under the WHS Regulations when labelled in accordance with Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) requirements and in a form:

- Intended for intake or administration to or by a patient or consumer, or
- Intended for use for therapeutic purposes.

Accordingly, when these conditions are met, existing labels and safety data sheets for these goods are considered to comply with WHS regulations.