The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) was introduced by the United Nations in 1992. It is to become a worldwide standard, to more than 150 countries to help develop new regulations and streamline hazard communication. In the United States, the changes that we will see most will be to our Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and Labels. Hazard identification pictograms will also be added.

- **Safety Data Sheets (SDS)** - Through the years Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) was the source for finding out about proper safety measures for a chemical and identifying its hazard. The organization and format of the MSDS was totally up to the supplier. Under the new GHS standards, the MSDSs are now called Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and comply with the international standard, improve employee safety, facilitate international trade in chemicals, and reduce the need for testing and evaluation. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Safety Data Sheets are now arranged in a very specific order with easy-to-reference headings on each of the 16 sections. Each section must be listed even if there is no information for that section.

- **Labels** - According to OSHA, the importer, distributor or chemical manufacturer is required to ensure each container of hazardous chemicals leaving the employers premises is labeled, tagged or marked appropriately. The GHS requires a little more information on chemical labels: identity of the hazardous chemicals; appropriate hazard warning; the product identifier; signal word; specific hazard statement; pictogram; the precautionary statement; and the name, address, and telephone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer, or other responsible parties.

- **Pictograms** - The GHS pictograms are very specific and include a symbol that has a white background and is bordered with a red outline. The pictogram is intended to express hazard information about a certain chemical. There are nine pictograms that are designed to represent each hazard category.