Inspection and Enforcement Services

E Lourens

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Introduction to South Africa

- 9 Provinces
- Surrounding Lesotho
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Introduction to South Africa

• 2022, South Africa had a population of approximately 60.6 million people.
• 26.6% of the population living in Gauteng Province
• National burden by an unemployment rate of 42%
• The Chemicals Industry contributes 4% to the National GDP and 23% to total manufacturing.
• This Industry employs around 106 000 people
• The petroleum, chemical products, rubber and plastic products continue to contribute to the increased sales (1.2%) along with food and beverages in the three months ended July 2022.
• SA is Manufacturing, Importing and Exporting chemical products.
Implementation Of GHS

JOURNEY TOWARDS GHS:
• 2009 Johannesburg Conference
• 2013 OHS Accord with the Chemical Industry
• 2018 Draft Regulations for Hazardous Chemical Agents (GHS) Published
• March 2021 Regulations for Hazardous Chemical Agents Promulgated
• Department of Employment and Labour –Lead Regulator.

Good fit with efforts to achieve SDG 3 and 8:
“Good Health and Well-being”
“Decent work and economic growth”
Implementation Of GHS

WHAT:
• Building Blocks selected to align with major trade partners
• Latest Revision of the GHS Purple Book (Rev. 8)
• Both single substances and mixtures
• Duty on Manufacturers and Importers as well as Employers
Challenges:

- Domestication
- Regulators
- Capacity
- Building Blocks
- Transition
- Scope
Challenges: Domestication

• Fragmented Regulatory Framework
  – Transport
  – Health
  – Agrochemicals
  – Work Environment
  – Consumer Goods

• Legislation
  – Scope
Challenges: Regulators

• Chemicals Management by Regulators
• Department of Employment and Labour – Work Environment
• Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment – Waste
• Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development – Agrochemicals
• Department of Health – Cosmetics & Hazardous Substances
• The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition – Consumer Goods
• Department of Water and Sanitation – Water Pollution
• Department of Mineral Resources and Energy – Mining Sector

(Inclusion of Environmental Hazards as guide)
Challenges: Capacity

- 600 Plus Inspectors for OHS
- 500 New appointments in 2020
- Lockdown restrictions ± 18 months (Virtual)
- Inspectorate from other Departments

Training of Inspectors
- Collaboration – KEMI
- Introductory training, Advanced training
- UNITAR online Classifying and Labelling Chemicals According to the UN GHS, 10 weeks.
Challenges: Building Blocks

- Select building blocks in each of the hazards classes that will not hinder trade.
- Alignment with major trading partners.
- For SA – it was the EU
Challenges: Transition

- Allow for transition between old/current system and the GHS
- EU - Up to 5 years
- SA – 18 Months
  - Will always need “more time”.
Challenges: Scope

Select appropriate scope of application:

- Work environment
- Consumer Goods
- Imports
- Exports

- Cosmetics, Food additives and Pharmaceuticals
Benefits

Health and Safety – Employees, general public
Environmental protection
Trade – easy trading
Regional / International Standardisation
Global Harmony?

Argentina – Revision 5
Brazil - Revision 4
Canada - Revision 5
China - Revision 4
EU- Revision 7
Japan - Revision 6
New Zealand- Revision 7
South Africa - Revision 8
Russia - Revision 5

Global ? YES
Harmonized????

05 October 2002
Conclusion

• Participate Internationally
• Collaboration
• It has been done
•
Thank You…

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