

# Inspection and Enforcement Services

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**employment & labour**

Department:  
Employment and Labour  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



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# Introduction to South Africa



- 9 Provinces
- Surrounding Lesotho
- Between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans

# 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  $\pm$  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????

# Conclusion

- Participate Internationally
- Collaboration
- It has been done
- 



# Thank You...

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