



Harmonizing labels worldwide with GHS

The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals is an international, standardised set of criteria for labelling chemical containers, drums and barrels. Developed by the United Nations, GHS communicates hazard information and safety precautions, minimising the risk of handling errors and the regulatory burdens on chemical producers.

All hazardous chemicals, substances and mixtures in all uses are covered by GHS, from production and storage to workplaces and consumers. It does not apply to food, pharmaceuticals or cosmetics.

A two-part classification shows the type of hazard on one label (such as flammable or corrosive to metals) and the degree of hazard on another (Category 1 is the most severe). GHS standardizes six basic elements:

- > Hazard symbols or pictograms surrounded by a red diamond (red diamonds must not be blank)
- > Signal words such as 'danger' or 'warning'
- > Hazard statements such as 'fatal if swallowed'
- > Precautionary statements regarding storage, disposal or handling
- > Product identifier defining chemical ingredients
- > Company identifier

BS 5609 Marine Immersion Label Testing Standard

The BS 5609 standard has three sections.

- > **Section one** An introduction to BS 5609, definitions, and a description of general requirements and responsibilities.
- > **Section two** Methods and requirements for testing a label's base material.
- > **Section three** Test methods and requirements for testing the label including the print.

Section three testing must include the specific ink and ribbon used to make the labels, and a base material that has already passed the Section two tests. Both tests must be passed successfully before a label can be called BS 5609 compliant.

Although Section two tests apply only to the unprinted adhesive/facestock combination, Avery Dennison also helps customers and end-users further, by testing the printed labels. Shippers need to ensure print quality at all times, and Avery Dennison is currently testing a variety of inks and ribbon/printer combinations. This will make Avery Dennison's Drum Label Portfolio compliant for BS 5609 Section three. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) has validated the Avery Dennison laboratory for testing BS 5609.

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