

Globally Harmonized System

GHS – chemicals hazard identification and labelling

June 1, 2015 is the GHS implementation deadline.

What do these changes mean for the users of cutting fluids?



As of June 1, 2015 all chemical products sold in the EU must be labelled and packaged and as per these new GHS regulations cutting fluids are subject to these changes. Additionally the appropriate new safety data sheet must also be made available to users.

- Main points of GHS and REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals)
- Safety data sheet changes
- Formaldehyde releasers in cutting fluids
- Safe working with cutting fluids
- Terminology and links














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Abbreviations such as REACH, GHS and CLP can potentially puzzle a good many users of cutting fluid. What is the meaning of these regulations, and how do they affect the way we handle and work with cutting fluids?

- **The most important GHS und REACH requirements**

As of June 1, 2015 cutting fluids (GHS definition: „mixtures“) must be labelled according to CLP Regulation. The CLP Regulation governs the implementation of measures in Europe as derived from the global GHS Regulation. This includes the GHS labelling elements in the form of new pictograms, signal words, hazard statements and precautionary statements. **The significance for users is: that even if the actual formulation of the product remains unchanged the product labelling will change.** You may ask yourself whether this new labelling means you now have to work with a hazardous product. **The answer is no: the product is unchanged and just as safe to work with as before.** The new labelling is a direct effect of GHS implementation.

With regard to REACH there are practically no changes for cutting fluid users. Our products and their raw materials are all REACH registered. REACH registration also includes the definition of intended use. Our product registration defines the intended use as cutting fluid. Meaning that cutting fluids labelled as such have to be used for that purpose and nothing else. **Products with the old labelling can still be sold during the two-year transitional period. There is no need to re-label those in storage.**

Up to now						
New						

Example of new labelling as of June 1, 2015

- **Safety data sheet changes**

Logically, the drum labelling corresponds with the safety data sheet information.

As of June 1, 2015 all products must be provided with a safety data sheet as per GHS designation, so we recommend users to replace their existing safety data sheets with new ones as soon as drums with the new labelling are delivered. During the two-year transitional period Blaser Swissslube will provide both the old and the new safety data sheets. They can be downloaded online from www.blaser.com.

- **Formaldehyde releasers in cutting fluids**

Formaldehyde is a gas suspected of causing cancer. While formaldehyde is never added to cutting fluids, some products do contain formaldehyde releasers as a biocide for conserving water-mixed cutting fluids. Formaldehyde releaser biocides free up small amounts of formaldehyde gas. Investigations by the German Employer's Liability Insurance Association in machine shops using such products have shown that the concentration of released formaldehyde is well below the limit of 0.1 ppm set by the German MAK* Commission (see Guidelines for Cutting Fluid Users). Formaldehyde will be reclassified in Europe as of 2016, and against this background the discussion on use of formaldehyde releaser biocides has arisen. The approval of biocides is also governed by the European Biocide Directive.

The highest priority for Blaser Swissslube is user safety and environmental compatibility. Blasocut Bio Concept products by Blaser Swissslube are well proven for over forty years without containing any formaldehyde releasers or boric acid. The number of products imitating our bactericide-free cutting fluids is steadily increasing, but the advantage of Blaser is more than forty years of experience with this technology.

* MAK = maximum concentrations at the workplace

- **Safe working with cutting fluids**

It is very important to us that you use our products correctly and safely. On the one hand your cutting fluid works optimally that way and generates added value for you. On the other hand it ensures the best possible working conditions for human/environmental compatibility. To achieve maximum user benefit at reasonable outlay, **the main requirements are thorough machine cleaning followed by the correct mixing of cutting fluid concentrate with water. And to keep the emulsion in perfect condition afterwards, regularly check the concentration and pH value, remove tramp oil, solids and metal debris.**

- **Terminology and links**

GHS means **G**lobally **H**armonized **S**ystem for worldwide chemicals hazard identification and labelling. This was adopted by the UNO as basis for the CLP Regulation on **C**lassification, **L**abelling and **P**ackaging that governs the GHS implementation in Europe.

Further information:

– **GHS and CLP:** <http://www.reach-compliance.ch/ghscpl>

– **Safety Data Sheet:**

http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13643/sds_en.pdf

REACH: The essence of REACH is the registration. The REACH system is based on the principle of industrial self-responsibility. Ever since 2007, chemicals falling under the scope of REACH have to be registered in the EU. The technical, scientific and administrative aspects of chemicals registration, evaluation and approval are governed by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). A special feature of REACH is the extension of communication along the supply chain. Downstream users (consumers) must inform their suppliers precisely about the intended product utilization so that they can take account of this in their information on exposure. Cutting fluids labelled as such therefore have to be used as cutting fluids only.

– **Further details on REACH:**

http://www.blaser.com/pic-html/pdf_downloads/14.210_E_REACH_Flyer.pdf

- **If you would like more information, please contact us:** reach@blaser.com



Blaser Swissslube AG

CH-3415 Hasle-Rüegsau (Switzerland) • Tel. +41 (0)34 460 01 01 • Fax +41 (0)34 460 01 00
www.blaser.com