



GHS in Japan – Implementation activity, classification of chemicals and their information provision -

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Presenter biography

Dr. Takeshi Morita is a Senior Technical Specialist, Chemical Management Center, NITE (National Institute of Technology and Evaluation), Tokyo, Japan. He joined NITE April 2019 after his retirement of National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS), the retirement age is 60. His specialty is experimental toxicology. He worked for a pharmaceutical company (GlaxoSmithKline) in preclinical safety for more than 20 years and for NIHS in a research area of safety/hazard assessment of chemicals. He was a peer-review board member of ICSCs (International Chemical Safety Cards) prepared by IPCS/WHO. He is involved in GHS Classification Project in Japan as an expert of human health. He is also several council board members in Japanese Regulations. He has authored or co-authored over 100 peer reviewed publications in the area of toxicology and chemical safety.



Presentation abstract

Several efforts have been made to implement GHS to Japan before and after the first publication of purple book (GHS text, 2003). In the beginning, an inter-ministerial committee was organized in 2001 to share information on the GHS among ministries and to play a pivotal role in the Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS. Other activities after that include translation of the GHS into Japanese, classification of chemicals under each relevant domestic law, and decision making about the Japanese position in the UN SCEGHS meetings. The gap analysis between GHS and Japanese laws revealed no laws that aim to transmit hazard information to chemical users. In addition, Japanese laws cannot cite GHS directly. Thus, several Japan Industrial Standards (JIS) have been issued to incorporate GHS to the Japanese laws. Furthermore, JIS is easier to revise than laws. After such standard development, the Industrial Safety and Health Law was amended to introduce the GHS in 2005. Another big effort is the GHS Classification Projects. The Japanese government has conducted GHS classification on about 1400 chemicals in a 2-year project for implementing GHS domestically. Prior to the classification work, a “GHS Classification Manual” and a “Technical Guidance Document on the GHS Classification” were developed to facilitate the classification of chemicals within the limited time schedule, and to eliminate any conflicting results amongst experts. The project is still ongoing, and approximately 200 substances are classified every year. The GHS classification results and several materials/documents are published on the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE) website. NITE provides also Chemical Risk Information Platform (NITE CHRIP), portal site available free of charge for searching information including laws/regulations, and toxicity information on chemical substances. Thus, NITE plays an important role in providing chemical information to government, industry, academia, and general citizens. History and current activity of GHS implementation in Japan, and role of NITE for information provision will be explained.