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Labelling of chemicals— Requirements

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Foreword

Rwanda Standards are prepared by Technical Committees and approved by Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) Board of Directors in accordance with the procedures of RSB, in compliance with Annex 3 of the WTO/TBT agreement on the preparation, adoption and application of standards.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare national standards. Final Draft Rwanda Standards adopted by technical committees are ratified by members of RSB Board of Directors for publication and gazettment as Rwanda Standards.

DRS 491 was prepared by Technical Committee RSB/TC 024, *Organic and inorganic chemicals.*

Committee membership

The following organizations were represented on the Technical Committee on *Organic and inorganic chemicals* (RSB/TC 024) in the preparation of this standard.

University of Rwanda -College of Science and Technology (UR-CST)

University of Rwanda -College of Education (UR-CE)

Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer protection Authority (RICA)

Rwanda Forensic Laboratory (RFL)

Standards for Sustainability (SFS)

HORIZON- SOPYRWA

National Industrial Research and Development Agency (NIRDA)

Uburanga Products Ltd

Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) – Secretariat

Introduction

The production and use of chemicals are fundamental factors in the economic development of all countries, whether they are industrialized or developing. In one way or another, chemicals affect directly or indirectly the lives of all humans and are essential to our feeding (fertilizers, pesticides, food additives, packing), our health (pharmaceuticals, cleaning materials), or our well-being (appliances, fuels, etc).

The most essential step leading to safe use of chemicals is to know their identity, their hazards to health and the environment and the means to control them. This knowledge should be available with reasonable effort and cost. Furthermore, this inherently complex knowledge must be organized in such a way that essential information on the hazards and corresponding protective measures can be identified and conveyed to the user in a form that is easy to understand.

United Nations' Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) provides a harmonised basis for globally uniform physical, environmental, and health and safety information on hazardous chemical substances and mixtures. It sets up criteria for the classification of chemicals for physical-chemical, health, and environmental hazards of chemical substances and mixtures.

To alert users to the health and environmental hazards of chemicals, it is recommended to use safety labels on packaging of these products. These labels also inform users of the precautions to take to safely handle, store and dispose of the chemicals.

Labelling of chemicals is based on their classification, which involves determining the hazard category to which the chemical belongs and assigning a codified regulatory phrase describing the type of hazard.

Labelling of chemicals— Requirements

1 Scope

This Draft Rwanda Standard specifies the requirements for the labelling of chemicals.

It applies to pure substances and their dilute solutions and to mixtures, to hazardous substance or mixture includes pictograms, signal words, hazard statements, precautionary statements, and supplemental statements.

It does not include requirements for testing substances or mixtures.

It does not apply to medical or veterinary products, cosmetics, munitions or explosives, pesticides, waste and foodstuffs or animal feedstuffs in the finished stage.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

chemical identity

a name that will uniquely identify a chemical.

3.2

chemically unstable gas

A flammable gas that is able to react explosively even in the absence of air or oxygen

3.3

compressed gas

a gas which when packaged under pressure is entirely gaseous at -50ºC; including all gases with a critical temperature ≤ -50ºC

3.4

corrosive to metal

a substance or a mixture which by chemical action will materially damage, or even destroy, metals

3.5

critical temperature

the temperature above which a pure gas cannot be liquefied regardless of the degree of compression;

3.6

dissolved gas

a gas which when packaged under pressure is dissolved in a liquid phase solvent;

3.7

explosive substance

A solid or liquid substance (or a mixture of substances) which is in itself capable by chemical reaction of producing gas at such a temperature and pressure and at such a speed as to cause damage to the surroundings. Pyrotechnic substances are included even when they do not evolve gases;

3.8

flammable gas

a gas having a flammable range with air at 20ºC and a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa;

3.9

flammable liquid

a liquid having a flash point of not more than 93ºC

3.10

flammable solid

a solid which is readily combustible, or may cause or contribute to fire through friction

3.11

hazard category

the division of criteria within each hazard class, e.g. oral acute toxicity includes five hazard categories and flammable liquids includes four hazard categories. These categories compare hazard severity within a hazard class and should not be taken as a comparison of hazard categories more generally;

3.12

hazard class

the nature of the physical, health or environmental hazard, e.g. flammable solid, carcinogen, oral acute toxicity

3.13

hazard statement

a statement assigned to a hazard class and category that describes the nature of the hazards of a hazardous product, including where appropriate the degree of hazard;

3.14

label

an appropriate group of written, printed or graphic information elements concerning a hazardous product, selected as relevant to the target sector(s), that is affixed to, printed on, or attached to the immediate container of a hazardous product, or to the outside packaging of a hazardous product;

3.15

mixture

solution composed of two or more substances in which they do not react

3.16

pictogram

a graphical composition that may include a symbol plus other graphic elements such as a border, background pattern or colour that is intended to convey specific information;

3.17

precautionary statement

a phrase (and /or pictogram) that describes recommended measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a hazardous product, or improper storage or handling of a hazardous product;

3.18

signal word

a word used to indicate the relative level of severity of hazard and alert the reader to a potential hazard on the label. The GHS uses “Danger” and “Warning” as signal words;

3.19

substance

chemical elements and their compounds in the natural state or obtained by any production process, including any additive necessary to preserve the stability of the product and any impurities deriving from the process used, but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition;

4 Labelling

Chemicals shall be labelled in accordance with the latest version of “Globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS)” of the United Nations.

Bibliography

[1] Globally Harmonization System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, *GHS.*

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