The GHS 7 is implemented by the Hazardous Substances (Hazard Classification) Notice 2020.

The Hazardous Substances (Minimum Degrees of Hazard) Notice 2017 and the Hazardous Substances (Classification) Notice 2017 will be revoked and other 2017 notices are being updated.

**EPA Notices (Amendments and Revocations) Notice 2020**

[EPA Notices (Amendments and Revocations) Notice 2020 (PDF, 1.1MB)](https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/EPA-Notices/EPA-notices-amendments-revocations-notice-2020-oct20.pdf)

This notice revokes the Hazardous Substances (Minimum Degrees of Hazard) Notice 2017 and the Hazardous Substances (Classification) Notice 2017.

**GHS**

The seventh revised edition of the Globally Harmonised System (GHS 7) has been adopted as New Zealand’s official hazard classification system. It takes effect from **30 April 2021.**

The GHS 7 ( <https://unece.org/ghs-rev7-2017> ) is an international hazard classification system for chemicals created by the United Nations. The hazards are communicated on labels and safety data sheets including the safe way to store, use and dispose of chemicals.

Adopting the new classification system means:

1. The existing HSNO hazard classification system will no longer be used.

**The HSNO system uses numbered classes and subclasses to indicate the hazardous properties of a substance.** (Worksafe, 2018)

1. the introduction of the Hazard Classification Notice 2020 incorporating the new GHS 7 classifications.

**GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)**

The GHS is an internationally agreed system that aims to replace the classification and labelling standards used in different countries with globally consistent criteria. Like the HSNO classification system, it assigns substances or articles to 9 physical hazard classes largely based on the United Nations Dangerous Goods system. It also classifies health and environmental hazards into type. Products brought into New Zealand from overseas may use the GHS system rather than HSNO on labels, the SDS or packaging. A conversion table for HSNO and GHS classifications is available at: [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz)

Under the HSNO hazard classification system, something that was acutely toxic, was labelled 6.1a (Substances that are acutely toxic- Fatal.)

Under the new GHS system it will be either;

* acute oral toxicity Category 1
* acute dermal toxicity Category 1
* acute inhalation toxicity Category 1

Something that was a 6.1b (Substances that are acutely toxic- Fatal.) will now be either;

* acute oral toxicity Category 2
* acute dermal toxicity Category 2
* acute inhalation toxicity Category 2

Petrol that is a 3.1a (Flammable liquid- High Hazard) will now be;

* Flammable liquids Category 1

<https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2020-au4842>

1. A framework is established to classify substances that are hazardous to the terrestrial environment.

hazardous to the terrestrial environment, in relation to a substance, means—

1. hazardous to soil organisms; or
2. hazardous to terrestrial vertebrates; or
3. hazardous to terrestrial invertebrates; or
4. designed for biocidal action, except where the substance:
5. is hazardous to the aquatic environment; or
6. meets the criteria specified in (a) to (c) above; or
7. is designed for biocidal action against an internal organism in humans or in other vertebrates, a virus, a protozoan or a bacterium.
8. EPA notices and group standards have been updated to apply the new classification system.
   1. Labelling
   2. Safety Data Sheets
   3. Packaging Notices
   4. Importers & Manufacturing
   5. Hazardous Property Controls
   6. Hazardous Substances (Hazard Classification) Notice 2020

The changes from the EPA Website are as follows:

**Hazardous Substances (Hazard Classification) Notice 2020**

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/EPA-Notices/hazardous-substances-hazard-classification-notice-2020-oct20.pdf>

* We have not adopted acute toxicity Category 5. This is the equivalent of HSNO 6.1E acute toxicity classification. Substances that were 6.1E due to aspiration hazard will be captured under aspiration hazard Category 1.
* We have not adopted skin irritation Category 3. This is the equivalent of HSNO 6.3B.
* We have not adopted aspiration hazard Category 2.
* We have not adopted hazardous to the aquatic environment acute Categories 2 and 3.
* We have not adopted hazardous to the ozone layer.
* Where the GHS 7 provides optional concentration cut-off values for classification of mixtures, we adopted the lower concentration cut-off values. This is consistent with pre-existing HSNO cut-offs.

We have introduced a hazard class “substances that are hazardous to the terrestrial environment”. It is applied only to agrichemicals or active ingredients used in the manufacture of some agrichemicals. This hazard class comprises four hazard classifications that cover HSNO classifications:

* hazardous to soil organisms (replaces HSNO 9.2A – D)
* hazardous to terrestrial vertebrates (replaces HSNO 9.3A – C)
* hazardous to terrestrial invertebrates (replaces HSNO 9.4A – C)
* designed for biocidal action (replaces HSNO 9.1D biocide).

**Hazardous Substances (Labelling) Notice 2017**

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/GHS2/Consolidated_Hazardous_Substances_Labelling_Notice_2017.pdf>

The consolidated version of the Hazardous Substances (Labelling) Notice 2017 as amended by the EPA Notices (Amendments and Revocations) Notice 2020 has the following changes.

* Replaced HSNO classes and classifications with GHS 7 classes and classifications with minor changes to wording.
* Removed the clause on labelling elements for desensitised explosives as these are now included within GHS 7.
* Replaced the term “pesticide” and its associated definition with the term “agrichemical” and associated definition.
* Amended clauses relating to labelling agrichemicals to:
  + take into account that the term “agrichemicals” is now used, which covers a wider range of substances than the term “pesticides”
  + reflect the new terminology for substances that are hazardous to the terrestrial environment
  + include performance-based requirements for labelling agrichemicals that are hazardous to the terrestrial environment (clause 19), that are equivalent to those that applied under the Hazardous Substances (Identification) Regulations 2001.
* Changed transitional provisions.
* Removed the Schedule that provides the HSNO to GHS classification correlations table (this table is now in the Hazard Classifications Notice).
* Made minor changes to improve consistency, readability and correct obvious errors.

**Hazardous Substances (Safety Data Sheets) Notice 2017**

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/GHS2/Consolidated_Hazardous_Substances_Safety_Data_Sheets_Notice_2017.pdf>

The consolidated version of the  Hazardous Substances (Safety Data Sheets) Notice 2017 as amended by the EPA Notices (Amendments and Revocations) Notice 2020 has the following changes.

* Replaced HSNO classifications with GHS 7 classifications with minor changes to wording.
* Minor amendments to reflect GHS 7 becoming the new classification system.
* Changed transitional provisions.
* Removed Schedule 2 that provides the HSNO to GHS classification correlations table (this table is now in the Hazard Classifications Notice).
* Made minor changes to improve consistency, readability and correct obvious errors.

**Hazardous Substances (Packaging) Notice 2017**

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/GHS2/Consolidated_Hazardous_Substances_Packaging_Notice_2017.pdf>

The consolidated version of the Hazardous Substances (Packaging) Notice 2017 as amended by the EPA Notices (Amendments and Revocations) Notice 2020 has the following changes.

* Replaced HSNO classifications with GHS 7 classifications with minor changes to wording.
* Changed transitional provisions.

**Hazardous Substances (Disposal) Notice 2017**

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/GHS2/Consolidated_Hazardous_Substances_Disposal_Notice_2017.pdf>

The consolidated version of the Hazardous Substances (Disposal) Notice 2017 as amended by the EPA Notices (Amendments and Revocations) Notice 2020 has the following changes.

* Replaced HSNO classifications with GHS 7 classifications with minor changes to wording.
* Replaced the term “packaging” with “container” in several clauses.
* Amended clause 9 (2)(b) to exclude skin and eye irritants.
* Added a definition of “bioaccumulative”.
* Changed the definition of “rapidly degradable”.

**Hazardous Substances (Hazardous Property Controls) Notice 2017**

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/GHS2/Consolidated_Hazardous_Substances_Hazardous_Property_Controls_Notice_2017.pdf>

The consolidated version of the Hazardous Substances (Hazardous Property Controls) Notice 2017 as amended by the EPA Notices (Amendments and Revocations) Notice 2020 has the following changes.

* Replaced HSNO classifications with GHS 7 classifications with minor changes to wording.
* Replaced the term “pesticide” and its associated definition with the term “agrichemical” and associated definition.
* Amended clauses related to the use of agrichemicals to:
  + take into account that the term “agrichemicals” is now used, which covers a wider range of substances than the current term “pesticides”
  + reflect the new terminology for substances hazardous to the terrestrial environment.
* Deleted the default qualification requirement for people applying HSNO class 9.2A, 9.3A and 9.4A agrichemicals. This requirement will remain as either an additional control or added to Schedule 9 of the Hazardous Substances (Hazardous Property Controls) Notice 2017. The default qualification requirements for people applying agrichemicals classified as aquatic toxicity acute Category 1 or chronic Category 1 is retained.
* Deleted the default requirement to keep a record of application when applying HSNO class 9.2A, 9.3A and 9.4A agrichemicals. This requirement will remain as either an additional control or added to a new schedule (Schedule 8A) to the Hazardous Substances (Hazardous Property Controls) Notice. The default requirement to keep a record when applying agrichemicals classified as aquatic toxicity acute Category 1 or chronic Category 1 is retained.
* Changed the current threshold quantity that requires signage at sites storing agrichemicals with terrestrial ecotoxicity hazards. The current threshold quantities for terrestrial ecotoxicity classifications cannot be retained due changes to the classification system for these hazards. A threshold quantity of 10,000 L / kg was applied to all terrestrial ecotoxicity classifications.
* Made minor changes to improve consistency, readability and correct obvious errors.

**Hazardous Substances (Importers and Manufacturers) Notice 2015**

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/GHS2/Consolidated_Hazardous_Substances_Importers_and_Manufacturers_Notice_2015.pdf>

The consolidated version of the Hazardous Substances (Importers and Manufacturers) Notice 2015 as most recently amended by the EPA Notices (Amendments and Revocations) Notice 2020 has the following changes.

* Amended clause 10 (Information and certification requirements prior to uplifting imported hazardous substances) to take account of GHS terminology for explosive substances.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hazard Class & Pictogram**  **\*No Pictogram** | **Hazard Classification** |
| Explosives (class 1) | unstable explosive |
| 1.1 (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, J, L) |
| 1.2 (B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K, L) |
| 1.3 (C, F, G, H, J, K, L) |
| 1.4 (B, C, D, E, F, G, S) |
| 1.5 (D) \* |
| 1.6 (N) \* |
| Flammable Gas | flammable gas Category 1A  flammable gas Category 1A  pyrophoric gas flammable gas Category 1A  chemically unstable gas A flammable gas Category 1A  chemically unstable gas B  Note: Some flammable gases Category 1A may be additionally classified as pyrophoric and/or chemically unstable. |
| flammable gas Category 1B |
| flammable gas Category 2\* |
| Aerosols | aerosol Category 1 |
| aerosol Category 2 |
| aerosol Category 3\* |
| Oxidising gases | oxidising gases Category 1 |
| Flammable liquids | flammable liquids Category 1 |
| flammable liquids Category 2 |
| flammable liquids Category 3 |
| flammable liquids Category 4\* |
| Flammable solids | flammable solids Category 1 |
| flammable solids Category 2 |
| Self-reactive substances and mixtures | self-reactive substances and mixtures Type A |
| self-reactive substances and mixtures Type B |
| self-reactive substances and mixtures Type C |
| self-reactive substances and mixtures Type D |
| self-reactive substances and mixtures Type E |
| self-reactive substances and mixtures Type F |
| self-reactive substances and mixtures Type G\* |
| Pyrophoric liquids | pyrophoric liquids Category 1 |
| Pyrophoric solids | pyrophoric solids Category 1 |
| Self-heating substances and mixtures | self-heating substances and mixtures Category 1 |
| self-heating substances and mixtures Category 2 |
| Substances and mixtures which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases | substances and mixtures which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases Category 1 |
| substances and mixtures which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases Category 2 |
| substances and mixtures which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases Category 3 |
| Oxidising liquids | oxidising liquids Category 1 |
| oxidising liquids Category 2 |
| oxidising liquids Category 3 |
| Oxidising solids | oxidising solids Category 1 |
| oxidising solids Category 2 |
| oxidising solids Category 3 |
| Organic peroxides | organic peroxide Type A |
| organic peroxide Type B |
| organic peroxide Type C |
| organic peroxide Type D |
| organic peroxide Type E |
| organic peroxide Type F |
| organic peroxide Type G\* |
| Corrosive to metals | corrosive to metals Category 1 |
| Desensitised explosives | desensitised explosive Category 1 |
| desensitised explosive Category 2 |
| desensitised explosive Category 3 |
| desensitised explosive Category 4 |
| **Health hazards** | |
| **Hazard Class** | **Hazard Classification** |
| Acute Toxicity | acute oral toxicity Category 1  acute dermal toxicity Category 1  acute inhalation toxicity Category 1 |
| acute oral toxicity Category 2  acute dermal toxicity Category 2  acute inhalation toxicity Category 2 |
| acute oral toxicity Category 3  acute dermal toxicity Category 3  acute inhalation toxicity Category 3 |
| acute oral toxicity Category 4  acute dermal toxicity Category 4  acute inhalation toxicity Category 4 |
| Note: acute toxicity Category 5 has not been adopted\* |
| Skin corrosion/irritation | skin corrosion Category 1A |
| skin corrosion Category 1B |
| skin corrosion Category 1C |
| skin irritation Category 2 |
| Note: skin irritation Category 3 \*has not been adopted |
| Serious eye damage/eye irritation | serious eye damage Category 1 |
| eye irritation Category 2  Note: the subcategories 2A and 2B have not been adopted |
| Respiratory or skin sensitisation | respiratory sensitisation Category 1  respiratory sensitisation Sub-category 1A  respiratory sensitisation Sub-category 1B |
| skin sensitisation Category 1  skin sensitisation Sub-category 1A  skin sensitisation Sub-category 1B |
| Germ cell mutagenicity | germ cell mutagenicity Category 1 |
| germ cell mutagenicity Category 2 |
| Carcinogenicity | carcinogenicity Category 1 |
| carcinogenicity Category 2 |
| Reproductive toxicity | reproductive toxicity Category 1 |
| reproductive toxicity Category 2 |
| effects on or via lactation |
| Specific target organ toxicity – single exposure | specific target organ toxicity – single exposure Category 1 |
| specific target organ toxicity – single exposure Category 2 |
| specific target organ toxicity – single exposure Category 3 |
| Specific target organ toxicity – repeated exposure | specific target organ toxicity – repeated exposure Category 1 |
| specific target organ toxicity – repeated exposure Category 2 |
| Aspiration hazard | aspiration hazard Category 1 |
| Note: aspiration hazard Category 2 has not been adopted |
| **Environmental Hazards** | |
| Hazardous to the aquatic environment | hazardous to the aquatic environment acute Category 1 |
| hazardous to the aquatic environment chronic Category 1 |
| hazardous to the aquatic environment chronic Category 2 |
| hazardous to the aquatic environment chronic Category 3\* |
| hazardous to the aquatic environment chronic Category 4\* |
| Note: hazardous to the aquatic environment acute Category 2 and acute Category 3 have not been adopted |
| Hazardous to the terrestrial environment | The EPA has adopted the following non-GHS classifications to classify substances that are hazardous to the terrestrial environment as provided for in clause 15 of the Hazardous Substance notice 2020. |
| hazardous to soil organisms |
| hazardous to terrestrial vertebrates |
| hazardous to terrestrial invertebrates |
| designed for biocidal action |