FAQ	Answer
What is the GHS?	The GHS is an acronym for The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. The GHS is a system for standardizing and harmonizing the classification and labelling of chemicals. It is a logical and comprehensive approach to: Defining health, physical and environmental hazards of chemicals; Creating classification processes that use available data on chemicals for comparison with the defined hazard criteria; and Communicating hazard information, as well as protective measures, on labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS).
Why was the GHS developed?	The production and use of chemicals is fundamental to all economies. The global chemical business is more than a $1.7 trillion per year enterprise. In the U.S., chemicals are more than a $450 billion business and exports are greater than $80 billion per year. Chemicals directly or indirectly affect our lives and are essential to our food, our health, and our lifestyle. The widespread use of chemicals has resulted in the development of sector-specific regulations (transport, production, workplace, agriculture, trade, and consumer products). Having readily available information on the hazardous properties of chemicals, and recommended control measures, allows the production, transport, use and disposal of chemicals to be managed safely.
Is WHMIS being replaced by the GHS in Canada?	No. The GHS will modify the well-known, Canadian WHMIS program, updating the pictograms, labels, (material) safety data sheets ((M)SDS) and changing classification requirements. While WHMIS 2015 includes new harmonized criteria for hazard classification and requirements for labels and SDS, the roles and responsibilities for suppliers, employers and workers have not changed. Suppliers, defined as persons who, in the course of business, sell or import a hazardous product, will continue to: • identify whether their products are hazardous products; and • prepare labels and SDSs and provide these to purchasers of hazardous products intended for use in a workplace. Employers will continue to: • educate and train workers on the hazards and safe use of hazardous products in the workplace; • ensure that hazardous products are properly labelled; • prepare workplace labels and SDSs (as necessary); and • ensure appropriate control measures are in place to protect the health and safety of workers. Workers will continue to:

	• participate in WHMIS and chemical safety training programs; • take necessary steps to protect themselves and their co-workers; and • participate in identifying and controlling hazards.
Why is Canada implementing the GHS?	The implementation of the GHS will help strengthen worker health and safety in Canada, facilitate trade with the United States (U.S.), and enhance the competitiveness of Canadian suppliers of hazardous workplace chemicals. Adopting the GHS also fulfills the Canada-U.S. Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) commitment to align and synchronize implementation of common classification and labelling requirements for workplace hazardous chemicals. Another key objective of the implementation of the GHS is to create a system that will allow Canadian and U.S. requirements to be met through the use of a single label and SDS for each hazardous product. The implementation of the GHS has aligned to a great extent the Canada-U.S. approach to workplace hazardous chemicals while strengthening health and safety protection provided to Canadian workers.
How long will WHMIS transition last?	Health Canada has developed the approach for transition to WHMIS 2015 based on consultation with stakeholders and WHMIS partners. WHMIS transition will occur in three phases, starting with the coming-into-force of the amended HPA and HPR and concluding in December 2018. During the first phase, which started with the coming-into-force of WHMIS 2015 on February 11, 2015, suppliers are able to comply with either the old HPA and CPR (WHMIS 1988) or the new requirements of the HPA and HPR (WHMIS 2015). The first phase of transition will end on May 31, 2017, at which point the transition for manufacturers and importers of hazardous products would be completed (i.e. manufacturers and importers would be required to only sell or import hazardous products with labels and SDSs that are compliant with WHMIS 2015). During the second phase, which starts on June 1, 2017 and ends on May 31, 2018, suppliers importing for their own use and distributors would be able to continue to sell and/or import hazardous products with labels and (M)SDSs based on either WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015 requirements. During the third phase (June 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018), manufacturers, importers, distributors and suppliers importing for their own use are required to sell or import only those hazardous products that are compliant with WHMIS 2015. At this point, transition to WHMIS 2015 is complete for all suppliers. By December 1, 2018, all suppliers and employers will be required to be in compliance with the new HPA and HPR.

Why is the Government of Canada implementing the GHS before June 1, 2015?	As part of the Canada-U.S. RCC Joint Action Plan, the Government of Canada committed to implement the GHS for workplace chemicals in Canada by June 1, 2015. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, however, implemented the Hazard Communication Standard in March 2012. By June 1, 2015, the transition to GHS-compliant labels and SDSs for U.S. manufacturers and importers will be complete. The Government of Canada has moved forward with the GHS implementation in Canada to allow an overlapping transition period with the U.S., thereby helping regulatory alignment between the countries. Early implementation will also help to mitigate risks associated with the influx of GHS-based SDSs and labels from international sources. Health Canada has worked closely with its federal, provincial and territorial counterparts as well as industry and worker organizations to foster continued national consistency in WHMIS.
What is the difference between WHMIS 1988 and WHMIS 2015 after the GHS implementation?	WHMIS was first introduced in 1988 and was modified in February 2015 as a result of the GHS implementation. "WHMIS 2015" is the term used to describe WHMIS incorporating the GHS through amendments to the Hazardous Products Act (HPA) and the finalization of the Hazardous Products Regulations (HPR), as well as amendments of appropriate occupational health and safety legislation and/or regulations in each federal, provincial and territorial jurisdiction. WHMIS 2015 aligns Canada's workplace chemical hazard communication with that of our international trading partners who have adopted the GHS. "WHMIS 1988" is the term used to describe the original WHMIS program pursuant to the old HPA and Controlled Products Regulations (CPR) and occupational health and safety legislation and/or regulations in each federal, provincial and territorial jurisdiction. The amended HPA received Royal Assent on June 19, 2014. The amended HPA and new HPR came into force on February 11, 2015. The CPR and the Ingredient Disclosure List were repealed on February 11, 2015. Do I have to comply with the GHS immediately? Is there a requirement to comply with both WHMIS 1988 and WHMIS 2015 at the same time? In order to allow adequate time for suppliers, employers and workers to adjust to the new system, WHMIS 2015 implementation will take place gradually over a three-stage transition period that is synchronized nationally across federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions. During the initial phase, suppliers must comply with either WHMIS 1988

	(repealed CPR/old HPA) or WHMIS 2015 (HPR/new HPA). The classification, label and (M)SDS must be fully compliant with the specific law and regulation chosen, and not a combination of the two. During transition, a hazardous product that is found to be non-compliant with the CPR must be voluntarily brought into compliance with the CPR, or the supplier will be required to comply with the HPR, no matter which transitional phase applies at the time.
Where can information regarding additional training be obtained?	Information on training can be obtained from the course author: Steven Charles Hunt ShipMate, Inc. 780 Buckaroo Trail, Suite D Sisters, OR USA 97759-0787 Tel: +1 (310) 370-3600 Mobile: +1 (310) 600-5241 Fax: +1 (310) 370-5700 http://www.shipmate.com e-mail: shipmate@shipmate.com
Where can information on U.S. OSHA's training requirements be found?	Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, §1910.1200(h)
Does this training fulfill U.S. OSHA's training requirements?	This course fulfills the U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard training requirements and addresses the following lesson topics: • Chemical Awareness • OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard • Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals • Chemical Classification • Chemical Labeling • Safety Data Sheets • Workplace Chemical Safety • Training Requirements In addition, the following subjects are address in detail: • Employer & Employee Responsibilities • Safety Data Sheet Availability, Format & Maintenance Requirements • Chemical Safety management Systems • Industry Best Management Practices Questions regarding this course and OSHA's training requirements can be directed to the course author: Steven Charles Hunt

	ShipMate, Inc. 780 Buckaroo Trail, Suite D Sisters, OR USA 97759-0787 Tel: +1 (310) 370-3600 Mobile: +1 (310) 600-5241 Fax: +1 (310) 370-5700 http://www.shipmate.com e-mail: shipmate@shipmate.com
Is additional training required?	This course does not address all of the chemical-specific training that may be required. This course is designed to fulfill the Hazard Communication Standard (Right-to-Understand) training requirements but should be supplemented with company-specific and chemical-specific training (e.g., location of Safety Data Sheets, process controls, etc.) If you have any questions regarding this or other dangerous goods training programs, or need any assistance, please call the course authors, ShipMate, Inc. at +1 (310) 370-3600.
What are the benefits of the GHS?	The basic goal of hazard communication is to ensure that employers, employees and the public are provided with adequate, practical, reliable and comprehensible information on the hazards of chemicals, so that they can take effective preventive and protective measure for their health and safety. Thus, implementation of effective hazard communication provides benefits for governments, companies, workers, and members of the public.
How was the GHS developed?	In conjunction with its Convention and Recommendation on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work, the International Labor Organization (ILO) studied the tasks required to achieve harmonization.
How will the GHS be maintained and updated?	In October 1999, the United Nations Economic and Social Council decided (resolution 1999/65) to enlarge the mandate of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods by reconfiguring it into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and labelling of Chemicals (UNCETDG/GHS). At the same time, a new Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and labelling of Chemicals (GHS Sub-Committee) was also created. When the IOMC completed developing the GHS, the system was presented to the UN GHS Sub-Committee, which formally adopted the system at its first session in December 2002. It was subsequently endorsed by the UNCETDG/GHS. The UN Economic and Social Council endorsed the GHS in July 2003. The Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification will: Act as custodian of the system, managing and giving direction to the harmonization process,

	Keep the system up-to-date, as necessary, considering the need to introduce changes or updates to ensure its continued relevance, Promote understanding and use of the system and encourage feedback, Make the system available for worldwide use, Make guidance available on the application of the system, and on the interpretation and use of technical criteria to support consistency of application, Prepare work programs and submit recommendations to the UNCETDG/GHS.