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Japan Publishes GHS Labeling Guidance

In August 2015, the Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA) published a guidance document on labelling requirements for hazardous chemical substances, following the recent amendment of the Industrial Health and Safety Law (ISHL), which becomes effective 1 June 2016. The ISHL amendment significantly increased the number of chemical substances that are required to have a label, from 106 to 640. In response to industry's growing concern that it is challenging to list all chemical substance names and their signal words and pictograms on the label where space is limited, the JCIA guidance confirms that the chemical name display is no longer mandatory but voluntary. However, chemical names that are required to have labeling must be displayed on the SDS. Additionally, on 1 September 2015, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) published a Question and Answer (Q&A) guidance document regarding the ISHL amendment in order to support companies in their efforts to comply with the new requirements.

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