



**EMB MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**  
No. 2020 - **009**

MAR 11 2020

**SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM (GHS) CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR CHEMICALS UNDER INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (IATA) AND INTERNATIONAL MARITIME DANGEROUS GOODS (IMDG)**

**I. RATIONALE**

Pursuant to Republic Act 6969 otherwise known as “Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Act of 1990”, Joint Administrative Order (JAO) 2009-01 on “Adoption and Implementation of Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals”, DENR Administrative Order 2015-09 “Implementing Rules and Procedures for the Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemical Substances and EMB Memorandum Circular 2015- 011 on GHS Guidance Manual in the Preparation of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and Labelling requirements of Toxic Chemical Substances”, the following policy guidelines are developed for industry sectors’ compliance for the importation, manufacture, handling, storage and transport of chemicals under the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG).

**II. OBJECTIVES**

This Memorandum Circular aims to:

- 2.1 Provide the necessary guidelines for the proper implementation of DAO 2015-09 with regard to chemicals under IATA and IMDG.
- 2.2 Guide the chemical industry sectors to comply with the requirements under DAO 2015-09 and EMB Memorandum Circular 2015-011 on the preparation of Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and labelling of toxic chemicals under IATA and IMDG.
- 2.3 Provide the EMB Central Office and Regional Offices with the required mechanism for the monitoring of compliance of the chemical industry sectors for chemicals under IATA and IMDG.

**III. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

- 3.1 International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code – is an internationally agreed regulation developed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and sets provisions for the safe transport of dangerous goods by sea.
- 3.2 International Air Transport Association (IATA) – It is the trade association for the world’s airlines which supports many areas of aviation activity and helps



formulate industry policy on critical aviation issues. It produces the guidelines for the transport of dangerous goods via air.

- 3.3 Dangerous Goods – They are substances or articles that pose risk to people, property or the environment due to their chemical or physical properties.

#### **IV. SCOPE AND COVERAGE**

- 4.1 Chemical substances listed under the IATA and IMDG as annexed in this circular.
- 4.2 The aforesaid chemical substances are either reagent grades, technical or commercial grades.
- 4.2.1 When diluted in water, still considered as pure substance

#### **V. IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR CHEMICALS UNDER IATA/IMDG**

- 5.1 All chemicals identified and included in the IATA and IMDG listed under Annex A, shall be properly labelled and shall have SDS complying with the requirements of GHS as stipulated in DAO 2015-09.
- 5.1.1 Importers shall require suppliers to submit SDS implementing GHS in accordance with DAO 2015-09 and to proper label the packages of imported chemicals.
- 5.1.2 Manufacturers shall be required to classify the hazards and prepare SDS of the chemical they produce and provide transporters, handlers and users with updated SDS and label chemical substances in accordance with DAO 2015-09 requirements.
- 5.2 Chemicals under IATA and IMDG listed in Annex A considered as wastes shall be considered hazardous thus shall comply with the requirements of DAO 2013-22.
- 5.3 Manufacturers, importers, users and distributors shall undertake continuing training on GHS for the proper implementation of this Memorandum Circular.

#### **VI. EXEMPTIONS**

Chemical substances used solely in the preparation/production of pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, foods and pesticides are excluded from this circular. However, for those with dual uses, SDS should indicate the actual uses of such chemical substance.

#### **VII. COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

Compliance with this Memorandum Circular shall be monitored by the EMB Regional Offices.


## VIII. PENALTY PROVISION

Existing and operating industries and related sectors violating this Memorandum Circular (MC) shall be imposed sanctions and fines in accordance with the Graduated Administrative Fines under Sections 15 of RA No. 6969 and Section 43 of DAO 29-1992.

## IX. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), UP Law Center.

  
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OIC-Director

 Department of Environment and  
Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
Office of the Director

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