

**WITH HAZARD COMMUNICATION DEADLINE LOOMING, GRAINGER PROVIDES SUPPORT AND TOOLS TO HELP MEET TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**  
***Millions of Businesses and Workers Required to Comply with new GHS Standard by December 1, 2013***

**CHICAGO, October 31, 2013** – Grainger (NYSE: GWW), the leading broad line supplier of maintenance, repair and operating (MRO) products serving businesses and institutions, is offering support and tools to help customers meet December 1, 2013 training requirements for the new Globally Harmonized System (GHS) standard.

As has been reported, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) [Hazard Communication Standard](#) (HCS) is adopting GHS to provide a single set of criteria for classifying chemicals according to their health and physical hazards, and to bring consistency to the labels and data sheets designed to communicate those hazards. The modified U.S. standard will create global alignment among other OSHA standards and federal U.S. agency regulations. In anticipation of this change, and as an initial step, OSHA requires all U.S. workers who produce or handle hazardous chemicals be trained on the new label elements and format by December 1, 2013.

“This is a significant change for dealing with hazardous chemicals, and it will take time for businesses and workers nationwide to adjust accordingly,” said Nino Granatiero, Vice President of Grainger’s safety strategy. “Grainger is working with customers to help ensure their employees are trained to understand the changes. We have the tools and resources to assist organizations in the process toward overall compliance, whether they are in the final stages of meeting the December 1 deadline or are just beginning to work toward that goal.”

The new standard covers millions of U.S. workers, and [OSHA expects the modification](#) to prevent hundreds of workplace injuries and illnesses, as well as dozens of fatalities. Once fully implemented, GHS is expected to result in cost savings to U.S. businesses related to productivity improvements by requiring fewer label updates and simpler hazard communication training.

Grainger provides **GHS Hazard Communication Training** that helps customers meet OSHA's December 1, 2013 training requirement deadline. The company also offers **Grainger MSDS Complete**, which provides on-demand access to a suite of tools to help build and maintain a compliant electronic Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) library with more than 4.5 million data sheets. Visit [www.grainger.com/safetymanager](http://www.grainger.com/safetymanager) to learn more about these services or to view GHS-compliant hazardous communication products.

In addition, visit [Grainger's GHS landing page](#), where you can download Grainger's whitepaper: GHS Hazard Communication Standard, Final Rule.

#### **About Grainger**

W.W. Grainger, Inc., with 2012 sales of \$9 billion, is North America's leading broad line supplier of maintenance, repair and operating products, with expanding global operations. For more information about the company, visit [www.grainger.com](http://www.grainger.com).

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