



Innovative Products For **Home. Work. Life.**

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via electronic transmission

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Subject: Regulations Amending the Hazardous Products Regulations (GHS, Seventh Revised Edition)<sup>1</sup>

The Household & Commercial Products Association<sup>2</sup> (HCPA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed *Regulations Amending the Hazardous Products Regulations (GHS, Seventh Revised Edition)*, which was published in the Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 154, Number 51 on December 19, 2020. HCPA fully supports the comments filed by the Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA).

HCPA requests that the activity on this proposed regulatory amendment be delayed for a few reasons. First, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the lives of everyone and created a spike in the demand of disinfectants, hand sanitizers and cleaning products. HCPA member companies have been focused on ensuring that consumers and workers have access to the products that they need to maintain a healthy environment in their homes and workplaces. Their resources need to remain on making certain that products are available so that society can recover and cannot be diverting these resources to a complex regulatory change.

Second, the cost benefit analysis outlining the implementation costs for industry to update safety data sheets appears to be extremely low and may not be reflective of our industry's responses to the questionnaires used to inform the Regulatory Impact Assessment Statement.

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<sup>1</sup> *Canada Gazette, Part I, Vol. 154, No. 51* (December 19, 2020) at pp 4236 - 4299

<sup>2</sup> The Household & Commercial Products Association (HCPA) is the premier trade association representing companies that manufacture and sell \$180 billion annually of trusted and familiar products used for cleaning, protecting, maintaining, and disinfecting homes and commercial environments. HCPA member companies employ 200,000 people in the U.S. whose work helps consumers and workers to create cleaner, healthier and more productive lives.

The lack of responses to the survey on costs also causes a pause on this activity so that the accuracy of the impacts on industry can properly be calculated.

Lastly, the proposal states the intention for Canada and the United States to coordinate and synchronize, to the extent possible, the coming into force of the amended *Hazardous Products Regulations* with the coming into force of the updates to the U.S. Hazard Communication Standard. HCPA supports and applauds this intention. However, with the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) just releasing their proposal to update the Hazard Communication Standard, industry needs more time to ensure consistency between the two proposals. The extra time is not only needed because of OSHA proposing their update after Health Canada, but because there are more changes for OSHA to make with updating from Revision 3 rather than Revision 5 of GHS.

With the intention of both agencies to update their individual regulations to be in line with GHS Revision 7, there is an opportunity for companies manufacturing products for both the Canada and the United States to streamline their processes to review their products, recalculate their product classification, and update labels and safety data sheets simultaneously, but only if the two proposal have similar timelines and are indeed synchronized with each other. If not, companies will be forced to have separate processes and increased costs for work that should in theory be streamlined to the benefit of consumers and workers.

As timing is key for both proposals, if Health Canada moves forward with this proposal, HCPA requests a three-year timeline that is coordinated with the U.S. OSHA so that manufacturers and importers are able to implement both on the same time. The additional time would allow companies to make the necessary changes in a stepwise manner while utilizing resources where needed in addressing the pandemic and rebuilding economies.

HCPA appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments and fully supports the comments filed by the Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association. HCPA looks forward to working with CCSPA and other stakeholders to ensure an appropriate implementation to benefit the workers in Canada and the United States.

Respectfully Submitted,



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