

June 18, 2013

### **Decision to Discontinue the use of HMIS Ratings on Henkel NA Safety Data Sheets and Labels**

In May 2012, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) aligned its existing Hazard Communication Standard with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). The result is the new Hazard Communication Standard 2012 (HazCom 2012). Under HazCom 2012, prescribed hazard categories will be used to identify the degree of hazard. It is mandatory that the hazard categories be displayed on the safety data sheet (SDS). Hazard categories range from 5 (less serious hazard) to 1 (most serious hazard).

The hazard rating system currently used at Henkel is the Hazardous Materials Information System (HMIS). HMIS is a voluntary, non-mandatory rating system. HMIS ratings appear on Henkel SDSs and hazard warning labels. Under HMIS, hazard ratings range from 0 (less serious hazard) to 4 (most serious hazard). The HMIS numbering system is in exact opposition to the HazCom 2012/GHS system.

Per OSHA, HMIS ratings are still permitted on workplace labels under HazCom 2012, as long as the ratings are consistent with the revised hazard communication standard and employees have immediate access to specific hazard information. However, if both rating systems are used simultaneously, there is concern that workers could be confused by the two opposing ratings and possibly handle chemicals improperly. This could lead to serious injury or death. In light of this, Henkel PSRA NA has decided to discontinue the use of HMIS ratings on SDSs and labels. This change will be phased in beginning at the end of 2013 and fully effective June 1, 2015. During the phase in period, SDSs and labels in the current format will display HMIS ratings, whereas HazCom 2012 compliant SDSs and labels will not.