

# Fiberglass Insulation Products GHS Classification



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Owens Corning has adopted the new requirements of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) which are now aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). The GHS document is an internationally agreed-upon system, created by the United Nations, designed to replace the various classification and labeling standards used in different countries. The change simplifies communication regarding hazardous materials and promotes international consistency.

As part of the new requirements, Owens Corning has reclassified all of their fiberglass products based on the GHS system for classification. While fiberglass products may cause temporary skin and mucous membranes itching due to the mechanical abrasion effects of fibers, it does not meet the new classification definition of "irritant" contained in the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard 29 CFR 1910.1000, Appendix A. OSHA now specifically defines an irritant as "a reversible inflammatory effect on living tissue by chemical action..." Owens Corning fiberglass is an inert material and does not interact chemically with the skin or mucous membranes.

As a result of this reclassification, Owens Corning's fiberglass insulation products are now classified as an Article under the HCS. OSHA defines an Article as...

*" means a manufactured item other than a fluid or particle: (i) which is formed to a specific shape or design during manufacture; (ii) which has end use function(s) dependent in whole or in part upon its shape or design during end use; and (iii) which under normal conditions of use does not release more than very small quantities, e.g., minute or trace amounts of a hazardous chemical (as determined under paragraph (d) of this section), and does not pose a physical hazard or health risk to employees.*

It is not appropriate to issue a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for Articles. A Safe Use Instruction Sheet (SUIS) is now the document provided by Owens Corning to communicate safe handling and use instruction for manufactured items defined as Articles under the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1200.