

Human health hazard: the registered pesticides from globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS) in Malaysia

ABSTRACT

In Malaysia, chemical pesticides are widely used not only for agricultural development, but also to public health, household to control diseases, pests or weeds. In order to ensure that the information of the pesticides' hazard properties conveyed to all pesticide users, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) has initiated to promote standard criteria for classifying chemicals according to human health, physical and environmental hazards. Even though statuses of GHS implementation on pesticides are remained unstandardized across different countries, Malaysia has taken proactive measures to implement the GHS at the workplace through the promulgation of the Occupational Safety and Health (Classification, Labelling and Safety Data Sheet of Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations 2013 (CLASS Regulations). This paper attempted to summarize the health hazards of pesticide chemicals registered in Malaysia by summarizing the nature of the registered pesticides' hazards classification based on GHS in order to understand the current situation of GHS adoption in pesticides sector in the country. Overall, registered pesticides in Malaysia are known to cause either acute or chronic health effects. Out of 3,610 pesticides registered under the Pesticide Board, a total of 2,241 pesticides are listed as highly hazardous pesticides (HHP). Even though GHS includes appropriate labelling tools to convey information about each of the hazard classes and categories, several limitations have found when classifying appropriate hazard class and categories to individual pesticides.

Keyword: Pesticide; Globally harmonized system; Health hazard; Highly hazardous pesticides