

The thing you must ask yourself... am I really GHS BS5609 compliant?

Most manufacturers believe that they are fully compliant by simply using compliant label materials.
This is not the case.

It is not sufficient for a chemical manufacturer to simply use compliant label facestock. To print chemical labels that meet full International Marine Dangerous Goods (IMDG) compliance the **media**, the **adhesive** and the **printed image** all have to pass Sections 1, 2 and 3 of BS5609 certification.

Laser Printer (iSys Label)

- Full color solution
- Print on demand, only the quantity you need
- Roll to roll, roll to sheet, or fanfold options
- Ability to print different sized labels ranging from 3" to 8.5" wide
- One step solution, one step process
- No pre-printed labels required
- Ability to use materials for non-GHS label applications
- Section 3 compliant

Inkjet Printer

- Full color solution
- Print on demand, only the quantity you need
- Roll to roll or fanfold options
- Ability to print different sized labels ranging from 3" to 8.5" wide
- Label sizes limited to 22 inches long
- Limited by substrates that can be ran into printer
- Section 3 compliant

Thermal Printer

- 2 color solution (red and black only)
- Need pre-printed inventory
- Two step process, wastes time
- May or may not be Section 3 Compliant, based on brand

Section 1 Compliance: Provides an overview of BS5609 and a description of the general requirements and actions that need to take place, including the use of specific pictograms and text laid out to convey the hazardous information.

Section 2 Compliance: Outlines the requirements for testing the blank label's base material, which includes the adhesive on the back on the material. Testing procedures include exposing to artificial weathering (salt spray & sunlight), dimensional stability and adhesion. When a label is Section 2 compliant, it means only the blank label is BS5609 Section 2 compliant.

Section 3 Compliance: The difference between Section 2 and Section 3 is that the printed label is tested, whereas Section 2 is only testing the blank label stock. With Section 3 compliance, labels are tested for abrasion resistance and permanence of print. This test must be done using the exact substrate that has passed Section 2, as well as the printer and proper settings used for printing. The requirement is that the printed label survives at least three months immersed in seawater, can be removed and is still legible. This test must be passed successfully before a label can be called BS5609 compliant.

Critical Deadlines

- December 1, 2014 - OSHA requires all employees handling or exposed to hazardous chemicals be trained on new GHS label elements and SDS formats
- June 1-Dec. 1, 2015 - OSHA requires companies to become fully compliant. The one exception is the six-month grace period distributors are given to ship any products that are still labeled under the old system.
- June 1, 2016 - Update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication program as necessary, and provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards.



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