

Background - EC Directives and GB Regulations

1 The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 1994 (CHIP) implements a number of single market European Commission Directives, that make sure people at work and in the home are properly informed about the dangers of chemicals. These are:

- a) The Dangerous Substances Directive (67/548/EEC)
- b) The Preparations Directive (88/379/EEC)
- c) The Safety Data Sheets Directive (91/155/EEC as amended by 93/112/EEC)

2 The duty to label correctly rests with the supplier of the chemical. It is technically difficult to determine which chemicals are dangerous, so to assist business HSE publishes a number of supporting documents. The documents all have special legal status under CHIP:

- a) Two documents which are formally linked to the Regulations:
 - i. An "Approved Supply List" (ASL) which prescribes standard classification and labelling for many chemicals;
 - ii. An "Approved Classification and Labelling Guide" (ACLG) which tells business how to work out if chemicals not on the ASL are dangerous;
- b) Two Approved Codes of Practice:
 - i. An Approved Code of Practice on Test Methods;
 - ii. An Approved Code of Practice on Safety Data Sheets.

3 The current ASL gives the agreed classification of about 3000 substances. Suppliers of chemicals not on the ASL are obliged, under CHIP, to work out their own classification and label the chemicals accordingly. Suppliers of substances included on the ASL just have to look them up.