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<b>Health and Safety Executive</b>		<b>Operational Circular</b>	
		<b>OC 253/9</b>	
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Target Audience:  
All HSE Inspectors

## CHEMICALS (HAZARD INFORMATION AND PACKAGING FOR SUPPLY) REGULATIONS 2002

This OC gives guidance on the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 (CHIP 3), particularly the new features and the approach to enforcement.

### BACKGROUND

1 [The Chemicals \(Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply\) Regulations 2002](#)  (CHIP3) implement a number of European Directives which have as a principal objective the protection of humans and the environment from the harmful effects of chemicals. This is achieved by the provision of information by suppliers to users, mainly in the form of warning labels and (for those at work) safety data sheets. CHIP is supported by a number of approved documents. These include the Approved Supply List (ASL) - a list of dangerous chemicals together with EC-agreed classifications and labels for them, the Approved Classification and Labelling Guide (ACLG) - which tells suppliers how to classify chemicals not listed in the ASL, and an Approved Code of Practice on the Compilation of Safety Data Sheets.

2 CHIP 3, and the supporting documents, represent a consolidation of all previous amendments to CHIP. CHIP 3 also introduced a number of important new features, mainly:

- environmental classification and labelling of preparations – the major change in the package;
- a new warning for preparations which are not classified as sensitisers but which contain small quantities of sensitising substances;
- the provision (in prescribed circumstances) of safety data sheets for some preparations not classified as dangerous;
- better guidance (in the ACOP) on the compilation of safety data sheets;
- revised/new classifications for about 500 substances in the ASL.

3 CHIP 3 is accompanied by revised versions of the established published guidance and is supported by pages on the HSE web site (details in [Appendix](#)). The web pages include the core text of this circular and a series of Frequently Asked Questions which will be updated regularly and

which should be regarded as complementing this circular. Other parts of the web site include links to a database of the substances in the ASL, to advice on free consultancy relating to environmental classification and to IND(G) 350 *The Idiot's guide to CHIP*. Additional general information relevant to CHIP 3 can be found in the [HSE Guide to the Inspection of the Manufacture and Supply of Products and Substances](#) (Chapter 5.2). Previous OCs on CHIP have been withdrawn.

#### ACTION BY INSPECTORS

4 HSE's implementation and enforcement strategy for CHIP must have regard to the principles of HSC's Enforcement Policy Statement, the HSE Enforcement Management Model and the general principles set out in the [HSE Guide to the Inspection of the Manufacture and Supply of Products and Substances](#).

5 Inspectors should note that the new requirements of CHIP 3 are diverse; for example they range from essentially administrative requirements relating to record keeping to revised labels indicating the carcinogenicity of a chemical. These differences will have significantly different effects on protection and such issues must be taken into account when considering what constitutes a proportionate approach to action.

6 General advice on CHIP can be found in the sources described in [para 3](#) and the [appendix](#). Arrangements for obtaining advice and dealing with queries and enquiries are set out in OC 253/10. The classification changes described in para 2 also have an impact on the application of COMAH. Any queries concerning this should be referred to HID CI4 (VPN 523 5772).

#### CANCELLATION OF INSTRUCTIONS

7 OC 253/9 (22/07/02) – **cancel** and **destroy**.

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#### APPENDIX (paras 2, 3 and 6)

#### CURRENT CHIP DOCUMENTS

##### **Statutory instruments**

1 The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/1689).

##### **Approved documents**

- 2 L129 *The Approved Supply List* (Seventh edition) (ISBN 0-7176-2368-8).
- 3 L131 *The Approved classification and labelling Guide* (ISBN 0-7176-2396-6)
- 4 L130 *The Compilation of Safety Data Sheets (Approved Code of Practice)* (ISBN 0-7176-2371-8).

#### Explanatory publications

- 5 HS(G) 228 *CHIP 3 for everyone* (ISBN 0-7176-2370-X).
- 6 IND(G) 350 *The Idiot's guide to CHIP* (ISBN 0-7176-2333-5).
- 7 IND(G) 353 *Why do I need a safety data sheet?* (ISBN 0-7176-2367-X).
- 8 IND(G) 186(L) *Read the label: how to find out if chemicals are dangerous* (ISBN 0-7176-2366-1).

#### Internet

- 9 CHIP pages: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/chip/index.htm>
- 10 CHIP 3 text: <http://www.legislation.hmsso.gov.uk/si/si2002/20021689.pdf> 

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