



**American Welding Society®**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **AWS to Host Workshop on Major Changes in OSHA Labeling and Safety Data Sheet Compliance**

**Miami, Fla., February 7, 2014** – The American Welding Society’s Health and Safety Committee will host a workshop for welding, brazing, and thermal spray consumables manufacturers about meeting new OSHA standards for product labeling and hazard communication on March 4-5, 2014 at AWS’s global headquarters in Miami, Fla.

The workshop comes on the heels of the United States adopting the United Nations Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). As a result, OSHA has changed the requirements of the Hazard Communication Standard. Three items of concern for the welding industry, especially welding consumable manufacturers, are: GHS classification of welding consumables, product labels, and Safety Data Sheets (SDSs).

“GHS prescribes the format and content for labels and SDSs and the process to achieve compliance is highly technical and complex,” said Steve Hedrick, safety and health manager at AWS. “Some have estimated that the SDS data reporting requirements are four to eight times that of a typical MSDS, and will create significant work for all chemicals and material suppliers.”

AWS's workshop will be led by Denese A. Deeds, co-founder of Industrial Health & Safety Consultants, Inc., where she is the director of chemical regulatory services. Deeds prepares SDS, labels and other hazard communication documents and assists companies with overall chemical regulatory compliance.

"The workshop will be used to review changes in OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard resulting from the adoption of GHS, and provide strategies on meeting GHS compliance requirements and deadlines," said Hedrick.

To learn more about the AWS workshop and to register, please visit

[www.aws.org/conferences](http://www.aws.org/conferences).

#### About AWS

*The American Welding Society (AWS) was founded in 1919 as a multifaceted, nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the science, technology and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves nearly 70,000 members worldwide and is composed of 22 Districts with 250 Sections and student chapters. For more information, visit the society's website at <http://www.aws.org> and click on "Pressroom."*