**Question:**
With the implementation of the new Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for hazardous chemical container labeling, it is still ok to use the traditional NFPA hazard diamonds and the HMIS hazard rectangles?

**Answer:**
Yes, there is nothing in the new Hazard Communication standard update that prevents their use. In fact, the final rule on Hazard Communication 2012, as published in the Federal Register (page 185), explicitly says, “Neither the proposal nor final rule prohibits the use of NFPA or HMIS rating systems.” However, the threshold is high for proving an alternative workplace labeling system, such as NFPA or HMIS, conveys the necessary understanding of chemical hazards to employees. When using a workplace label that does not replicate the shipping label, employers must ensure, through training, that employees still ‘get’ all of the hazard information from the alternative label that they would have gotten from a shipping label.