

Correcting System-Wide Issues within a GHS Label Printing System

Reliance upgrades printers, GHS label software and Labels to resolve several ongoing GHS label printing problems

Background

An OSHA deadline – usually a stress point for any business executive – was a liberating opportunity for one leading distributor of industrial and environmental chemicals and chemical services in the Northeastern United States.

When OSHA announced its June 1, 2015 deadline for reclassification of chemicals and updating of all SDS's and labels to the new GHS format, this distributor decided to not only address the GHS labeling requirements but also address the problems they were having with their existing system.

Challenge

The issues this chemical distributor faced were not unusual for many companies implementing variable color printing and trying to determine the best solution to achieve GHS compliance. Their Director of Operations met with and talked to Bill Sargent, Business Development Manager, at a **NACD ChemEdge Conference**. Quickly realizing that his company could utilize Reliance's GHS labeling expertise, the director asked Reliance for assistance. Reliance performed an audit at one of the distributor's plants, where we identified the following issues that were negatively impacting the company's labels and labeling processes:

- The edges of the red, yellow and black color image from the existing laser printing system were not clearly defined and “bled” into each other.
- The red ink faded to grey during the hot summer months, violating DOT image requirements and would not be compliant with future GHS label requirements.
- The company's label-printing software provider had lost essential data components of the distributor's label templates, preventing timely changes.

“We had an established label and software supplier, but realized we needed to make a change to correct the current issues and be ready to meet GHS requirements” said the Director of Operations.

Analysis

“Our recommendation was to overhaul the distributor's entire labeling system”, said Bill Sargent. ***“We knew that correcting just one component, such as label stock, would not resolve all of their issues.”***

Solution

Reliance's first recommendation was to transfer the label printing operations to Vision[®], our GHS compliant, cloud-based label software.

Reliance also recommended changing the label face stock from polyester to vinyl. The polyester face stock, due to its' smoothness and tendency to receive and hold a static charge, is much more prone to static build-up. Reliance's proprietary top coatings on the vinyl face stock also help improve feedability, reduce static and improve the durability of the printed image. In addition to the label material changes, re-designs of several label formats were suggested to help the labels process more effectively through a laser printer. Finally, Reliance offered to train the company's staff to set up and maintain the printer correctly for label printing.

The company accepted all of Reliance's recommendations for the software, hardware, material, label redesign and setup changes.

Implementation

After installing the Vision label software, the Reliance R&D team developed and uploaded the necessary templates and trained the distributor's GHS labeling team on ways to utilize the software to maximize value while improving their ability to manage their regulatory content. Reliance then addressed the label quality and image durability issues that were plaguing the company by recommending Lexmark color laser printers that, when utilized with

Reliance's GlobaLabel[®] stock produced color images that were clear, precise and no longer subject to the fading they were experiencing with their legacy printing solution. Finally, Reliance re-designed the label templates to eliminate poor designs that were causing multiple-sheet misfeeds.

Results

"The conversion mitigated our risk for fines and eliminated the chance of multiple occurrences of improper label and label communication," said the Director of Operations. ***"Instead of facing costly barriers to business growth, our company is now well-positioned to meet all GHS compliance guidelines, thank to Reliance Label Solutions."***

About Reliance

Reliance Label Solutions specializes in manufacturing hazardous container labels for the Lubricant, Petroleum and Chemical industries. Our chemical drum labeling solutions provide successful GHS, Hazcom and IMDG labeling implementation. Reliance also provides DOT labeling, placarding and marking solutions.

"We're On It"[®] with certified materials, manufacturing best practices, our Vision[®] label printing software, inventory management and next day shipping. Our GHS compliant products include labels, label printing software, color printers and printing consumables.

Reliance has proudly served the Lubricant, Petroleum, Chemical, Distribution and Industrial markets for over 30 years. We are headquartered outside of Kansas City, KS and are ISO 9001:2015 quality certified.