TECH SHEET

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Chemical Container Labels

Container labels are a primary source of warning for employees who handle hazardous chemical substances. Warning labels, employee hazard communication training and safety data sheets (SDS) are the three essential components of any hazard communication program. Warning labels provide information about the contents of a container for anyone who may use the chemical.

OSHA Regulations

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200(f)(6) says "...the employer shall ensure that each container of hazardous chemicals in the workplace is labeled, tagged or marked with ...product identifier; signal word; hazard statement(s); pictogram(s); precautionary statement(s); and name, address and telephone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer or other responsible party..."

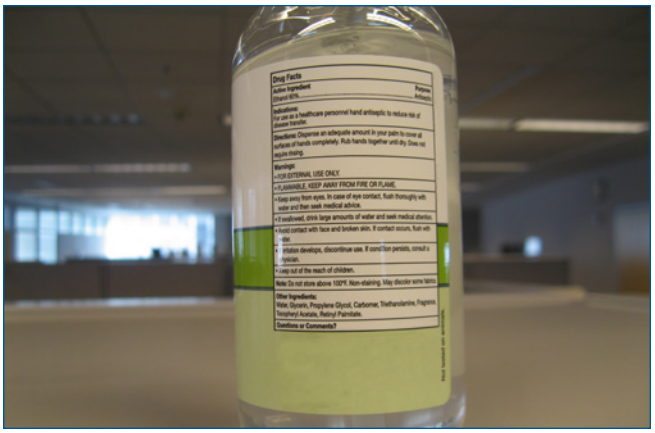
Label Requirements

OSHA requires that health hazard and/or physical hazard criteria of all chemicals should be determined, and that information will appear on the label. Each label will contain the following information:

- Identity of the material
- Signal word
- Hazard statement(s)
- Pictogram(s)
- Precautionary physical and health hazards associated with the material
- Name and address of a responsible person from whom information can be obtained

This information must be provided in simply worded English, with other languages optional. Color coding should not be relied upon as the primary means of communicating hazard information.

Note: Labels do not always have to be adhered to a container. Labels, placards or signs can be placed on shelving or posted where similar stationary containers are stored. Although not required, labeling of transfer containers is highly recommended.



Signal Words

In order to communicate a chemical's hazard severity, the label may have one of these signal words:

- No signal words – for less hazard
- WARNING – for moderate hazard
- DANGER – for severe hazard

Hazard Statement

This statement is assigned to a hazard class and category that describes the nature of the hazard of a chemical, including the degree of hazard, where appropriate. Examples of hazard statements are:

- FATAL IF SWALLOWED – or, as appropriate, INHALED or COMES IN CONTACT WITH SKIN
- HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED – or, as appropriate, INHALED or COMES IN CONTACT WITH SKIN
- CAUSES SEVERE SKIN BURNS AND EYE DAMAGE
- EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE LIQUID AND VAPOR
- MAY CAUSE FIRE OR EXPLOSION; STRONG OXIDIZER – contact with other materials may cause fire
- MAY CAUSE CANCER – contains material which can cause cancer

Continued

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Pictograms

Pictograms are intended to convey specific information about the hazards of a chemical. There are eight pictograms designated under the hazard communication standard, shown below:

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Flame	Flame Over Circle	Exclamation Mark	Exploding Bomb
			
Flammables Self-Reactives Pyrophorics Self-heating Emits Flammable Gas Organic Peroxides	Oxidizers	Instant Dermal Sensitizier Acute Toxicity (harmful) Narcotic Effects Respiratory Tract Irritation	Explosives Self-Reactives Organic Peroxides
Corrosion	**Gas Cylinder**	**Health Hazard**	**Skull and Crossbones**
			
Corrosives	Gases Under Pressure	Carcinogen Respiratory Sensitizer Reproductive Toxicity Target Organ Toxicity Mutagenicity Aspiration Toxicity	Acute Toxicity (severe)

Precautionary Statement

Precautionary measures supplement the hazard statements by indicating what to do to avoid an injury from exposure to a hazardous chemical or improper storage or handling. There are four types of precautionary statements: “prevention,” “response,” “storage” and “disposal.” Examples include:

Prevention

- Avoid breathing/dust/fume/gas/mist/vapors/spray
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling
- Keep only in original container

Response

- Eliminate all ignition sources, if safe to do so
- In case of fire: Evacuate area
- Get medical advice/attention if you feel unwell

Storage

- Store in well-ventilated place; Keep container tightly closed
- Store locked up
- Store away from other materials

Disposal

- Dispose in accordance with local, regional, national and international regulations, as specified

For Additional Information

Occupational Safety & Health Administration: www.osha.gov

- Hazard Communication
- Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)

EMC Insurance Companies: www.emcins.com

- Tech Sheets