



SAFETY BRIEF

UNDERSTANDING CHEMICAL PICTOGRAMS

The Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) requires pictogram labels to warn users of the chemical hazards associated with a substance. Reference the chart below to learn more about the nine HCS pictograms.

Health Hazard	Flammable	Harmful
These substances may cause serious health effects, such as cancer, mutated genes or a damaged respiratory system.	These substances may cause a fire hazard due to spontaneous combustion or flammable gas.	These substances may cause less serious health effects, such as irritation to the skin, eyes or respiratory system.
Compressed Gas	Corrosives	Explosives
These substances have gases under pressure (also known as nonliquefied gases). Examples include propane, methane and butane.	These substances may corrode or burn metals, skin and eyes. Examples include acids or bases, such as hydrochloric acid.	These substances, such as TNT, may explode or react with themselves.
Oxidizing	Environmental Hazards	Toxic
These substances are oxidizing gases, liquids or solids.	These substances, such as zinc oxide, may cause damage to an aquatic environment.	These substances may cause death or poisonous effects from short exposure.



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