

# HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD UPDATE 2014

# LABELS

OSHA recently revised its Hazard Communication Standard to align with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). Two significant changes contained in the revised standard require the use of new labeling elements and a standardized format for Safety Data Sheets (SDS), formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

## Labels

The new labels require that hazards be communicated through pictures for immediate recognition and specific text for detailed information.

Product Identifier	This will be the chemical or product name and the code or batch number. This is the chief means of identifying the substance. The same product identifier must be on the label and on that chemical's Safety Data Sheet.
Supplier Identification	This area contains the name, address and phone number of the chemical manufacturer, distributor or importer.
Precautionary Statements	Precautionary statements are phrases that describe the recommended measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects of exposure to a hazardous chemical or improper storage or handling. There are four types of precautionary statements: PREVENTION (to minimize exposure), RESPONSE (to a related incident), STORAGE and DISPOSAL. Precautionary statements address work practices, engineering controls and personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to safely work with the chemical or product.
Hazard Pictograms	There are nine pictograms that represent nine specific hazard categories. Pictograms will appear in the shape of a square with a black hazard symbol on a white background with a red frame. Keep in mind there could be more than one pictogram on the label if the chemical poses more than one hazard.
Signal Word	There are only two signal words: "Danger" and "Warning." The usage quickly indicates the severity of the hazard. "Danger" is used for more severe hazards and "Warning" is used for the less severe hazards. Should a material/substance pose multiple hazards, the signal word will default to the higher severity level.
Hazard Statements	The hazard statements describe the nature of the hazards of a chemical, including the degree of the hazard, if appropriate. Hazard statements may be combined when a chemical or product presents multiple hazards. Note that the hazard statements are specific and the same statement will always appear for the same hazards no matter what the chemical is or who makes it.

CODE _____ Product Name _____	} Product Identifier		Signal Word Danger
Company Name _____ Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____	} Supplier Identification		
Keep container tightly closed. Store in a cool, well-ventilated place that is locked. Keep away from heat/sparks/open flame. No smoking. Only use non-sparking tools. Use explosion-proof electrical equipment. Take precautionary measures against static discharge. Ground and bond container and receiving equipment. Do not breathe vapors. Wear protective gloves. Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product. Wash hands thoroughly after handling. Dispose of in accordance with local, regional, national, international regulations as specified.  In Case of Fire: use dry chemical (BC) or Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) fire extinguisher to extinguish.  First Aid If exposed call Poison Center. If on skin (or hair): Take off immediately any contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water.	} Precautionary Statements	Highly flammable liquid and vapor. May cause liver and kidney damage.	} Hazard Statements

## What's new?

Pictograms and labels visible on all chemical products as part of an updated OSHA standard.

## Benefits

The labels are easier to understand and include a signal word, pictogram and hazard statement. All U.S. companies must adhere to the standard.

# Recognizing and Understanding Hazardous Chemical Warning Labels

Understanding warning labels will help you to handle and use hazardous chemicals properly and to avoid health and safety problems at the worksite. The Hazard Communication Standard—or HazCom—requires all hazardous chemical containers to have warning labels on them or on a sign placed near the container.

## What You Can Find on a Warning Label

- ◆ the name of the chemical
- ◆ the name, address and telephone number of the manufacturer or importer
- ◆ the chemical code number
- ◆ one of three signal words indicating the danger level of the chemical: “Warning,” “Caution” or “Danger”
- ◆ the word “Poison” if the chemical is highly toxic
- ◆ physical hazards (flammable, explosive, corrosive, etc.)
- ◆ health hazards (eye, lung and skin irritation, burns, etc.)

## Some warning labels may also show:

- ◆ how to store the chemical.
- ◆ how to dispose of the chemical.
- ◆ what personal protective equipment to use with the chemical.
- ◆ how to clean up the chemical.
- ◆ how to handle leaks or spills.
- ◆ first aid instructions for exposure.

## Always Read the Label

When you take responsibility for knowing the contents of chemical containers, you protect yourself and every other worker at your worksite.

- ◆ Always read the warning label whenever you use any hazardous chemical. Even if you’ve used the same chemical many times, the manufacturer may have changed the formula or provided a different concentration.
- ◆ Avoid identifying chemicals by the label’s color or design alone.
- ◆ If the information on the label leads you to question the appropriateness of your environment or your protective equipment, check your company’s policy or consult your supervisor before using the chemical.

## Warning Labels Are Everyone’s Responsibility

Making certain that hazardous materials are properly labeled is a responsibility that all workers must share.

- ◆ If you find a container without a label or with a torn or illegible label, report it to your supervisor immediately.
- ◆ Don’t attempt to handle a chemical without a label until you know what it is.
- ◆ If you’re carrying hazardous chemicals in a portable container that someone else might use, label the container to ensure the safety of other workers.



## SAFETY CHECKLIST

- I always read the warning label every time I work with the chemical.
- I make sure each chemical in my area has a label.
- I report missing or illegible labels.
- If I don’t understand the information on the label, I ask for help.
- I always follow the instructions on the label.
- I make sure labels aren’t covered up or removed.
- If I need to know more information about a chemical, I read the MSDS.

# HAZARD COMMUNICATION STANDARD

## Pictograms

### Health Hazard



- Carcinogen
- Mutagenicity
- Reproductive Toxicity
- Respiratory Sensitizer
- Target Organ Toxicity
- Aspiration Toxicity

### Flame



- Flammables
- Pyrophorics
- Self-Heating
- Emits Flammable Gas
- Self Reactives
- Organic Peroxides

### Exclamation Mark



- Irritant (skin and eye)
- Skin Sensitizer
- Acute Toxicity (harmful)
- Narcotic Effects
- Respiratory Tract Irritant
- Hazardous to Ozone Layer (Non-Mandatory)

### Gas Cylinder



- Gases Under Pressure

### Corrosion



- Skin Corrosion/Burns
- Eye Damage
- Corrosive to Metals

### Exploding Bomb



- Explosives
- Self-Reactives
- Organic Peroxides

### Flame Over Circle



- Oxidizers

### Environment



- Aquatic Toxicity

### Skull and Crossbones



- Acute Toxicity (fatal or toxic)

# The NFPA Diamond and HMIS Labels

The Hazardous Material Identification System—or HMIS—and the National Fire Protection Association—or NFPA—labeling systems use color, number and letter codes to give information about the hazards of chemicals or materials.

## HMIS Label

The color codes tell you at a glance the hazards posed by a chemical. Each colored section contains a number that tells how severe the hazard is. The higher the number, the greater the hazard, from 0 (minimal) to 4 (severe). Letter codes from A to K tell which combination of protective equipment is needed.

**CHEMICAL NAME**

HEALTH  
FLAMMABILITY  
REACTIVITY  
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

**HAZARD RATING**  
4 Extreme    1 Slight  
3 Serious    0 Minimal  
2 Moderate

**BLUE:** health hazards—how the chemical can harm you  
**RED:** flammability—how easily the chemical burns  
**YELLOW:** reactivity—how likely the chemical is to explode or react violently with other substances  
**WHITE:** the need for protective equipment

## NFPA Diamond

The numbers on the diamond tell you about the fire, health, reactivity and special hazards of the material it labels. You can use the label to tell:

- ◆ what kind of substance it describes.
- ◆ whether to have a fire extinguisher handy.
- ◆ how likely it is the substance will react with something else.
- ◆ whether you should protect yourself from contact with the substance.

**NOTICE**

**HAZARD RATING**  
4 Extreme    1 Slight  
3 Serious    0 Minimal  
2 Moderate

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT INDEX				
<b>A</b>				
<b>B</b>				
<b>C</b>				
<b>D</b>				
<b>E</b>				
<b>F</b>				
<b>G</b>				
<b>H</b>				
<b>I</b>				
<b>J</b>				
<b>K</b>				
<b>X</b>				

**ASK YOUR SUPERVISOR FOR SPECIALIZED HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS.**