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Labeling the Hazard

OSHA to institute "global harmonization" of hazard communications

Hazardous chemical labels will soon have a new look—and workers will need to be trained to recognize it.

Beginning shortly, OSHA will require that hazardous chemical containers be labeled with a whole new set of standardized pictograms (*see* Figure 1, p. 3). The easily identified symbols will be the same around the world. Having the symbols "globally harmonized" will help workers in countries around the planet recognize exactly what type of hazardous material is in a container, regardless of what country it was shipped from and what language it's in.

The new hazardous chemicals labeling requirements are part of OSHA's recent revision of the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS), 29 CFR 1910.1200, bringing it into alignment with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

The revised OSHA standard requires that information about chemical hazards be conveyed on labels using quick visual notations to alert the user and provide immediate recognition of the hazards. The label provides information to the workers on the specific hazardous chemical. Labels must also provide instructions on how to handle the chemical so that chemical users are informed about how to protect themselves. Specifically, labels must contain the following information: product identifier; signal word; hazard statement(s); precautionary statement(s); pictogram(s); and the name, address, and telephone number of the

(continued on page 3)

Under OSHA's recent revision of the Hazard Communications Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200), the symbols and frames presented above will no longer be acceptable as of June 1, 2015. Harmonized pictograms (shown in Figure 1) will replace such symbols on hazardous chemical labels.

Inside

Joint Commission Resources

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(continued from page 1)

What to Look for on a Label

- Name, address, and telephone number
- Product identifier
- Signal word
- Hazard statement(s)
- Precautionary statement(s)
- Pictogram(s)

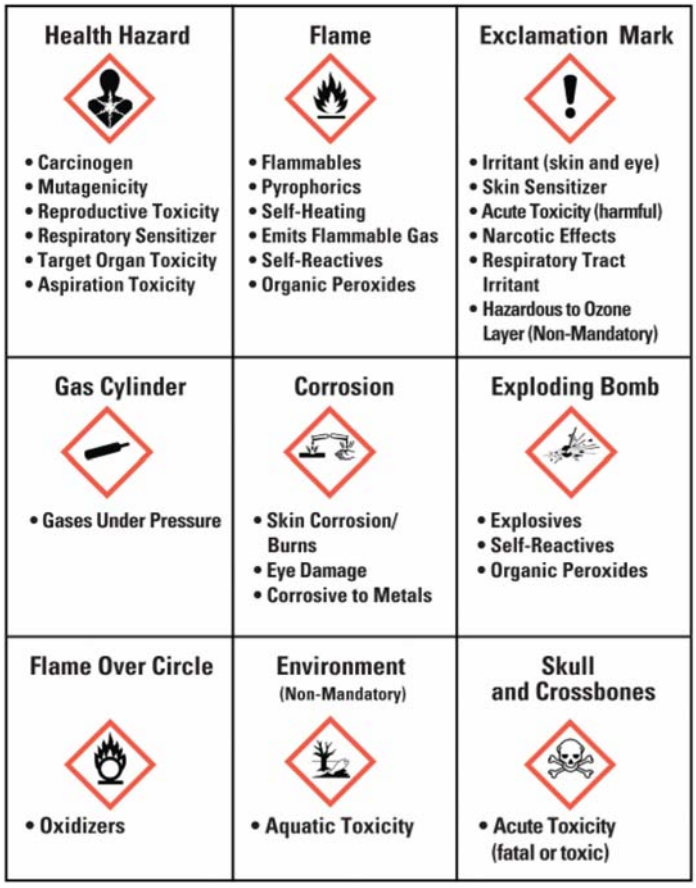
chemical manufacturer, importer, or other responsible party (see the box above and Figure 2, below).

Safety data sheets

In addition, safety data sheets (SDS—formerly referred to as "material safety data sheets," or MSDS) will also have a new standardized look that will help workers anywhere quickly find and understand the information they need. The revised standard requires the use of a 16-section SDS format, which provides detailed information regarding the chemical. As with MSDS, OSHA requires that

(continued on page 4)

Figure 1. Labels and Pictograms



OSHA will enforce the use of eight of these pictograms on hazardous chemicals. The environmental pictogram is not mandatory but may be used to provide additional information.

Figure 2. Hazard Communication Standard Labels

OSHA® QUICK CARD™

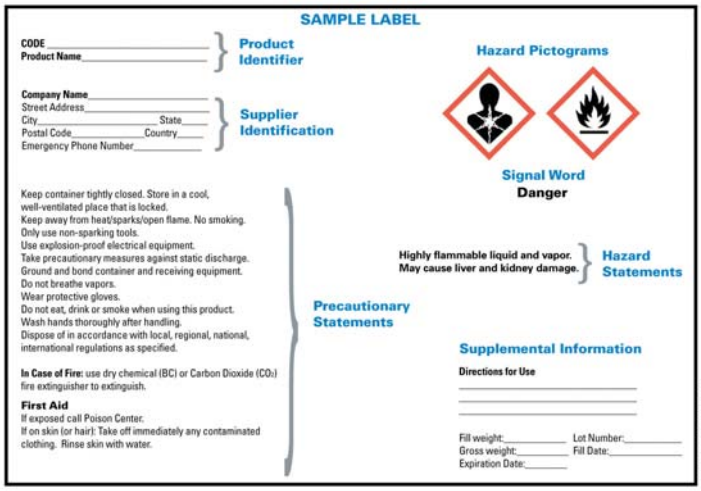
Hazard Communication Standard Labels

OSHA has updated the requirements for labeling of hazardous chemicals under its Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). As of June 1, 2015, all labels will be required to have pictograms, a signal word, hazard and precautionary statements, the product identifier, and supplier identification. A sample revised HCS label, identifying the required label elements, is shown on the right. Supplemental information can also be provided on the label as needed.

For more information:

OSHA® Occupational Safety and Health Administration

(800) 321-OSHA (6742)
www.osha.gov



This label contains all the elements the new OSHA regulations require. You can use this Quick Card™ to train employees about the new labels.

Labeling the Hazard

(continued from page 3)

SDS be kept in work areas where chemicals are used and stored. Labels provide important information for anyone who handles, uses, stores, and transports hazardous chemicals, but, of course, they are limited by design in the amount of information they can provide. SDS are a more complete resource for details regarding hazardous chemicals.

Training

Although the deadline for updating the labels is **June 1, 2015**,* the deadline for training workers is much sooner: **December 1, 2013**. Organizations will want to get their training programs up and running quickly, and OSHA has provided training tools including briefs and "Quick Card™" visuals to help do that. You can find them at http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom. A sample Quick Card™ is shown in Figure 2. The box at right contains the minimum required topics for the training that must be completed by December 1, 2013.

Joint Commission requirements

The Joint Commission's standard EC.02.01.01 and related elements of performance (EPs) require that accredited organizations manage "risks related to hazardous materials and waste." Specifically, EC.02.01.01, EP 11, requires organizations to have the "safety data sheets required by law," and EC.02.01.01, EP 12, requires organizations to label "hazardous materials and waste. The labels identify the contents and hazard warnings." EC

* Distributors may continue to ship containers labeled by manufacturers or importers (but not by the distributors themselves) in compliance with HazCom 1994 until December 1, 2015.

Hazard Communications Training Topics

This list contains the minimum required topics for the training that must be completed by December 1, 2013, according to OSHA.

Training on <u>label</u> elements must include information on the following:

- ***The type of information the employee would expect to see on the new labels, including the following:***
  - ✓ Product identifier: how the hazardous chemical is identified. This can be (but is not limited to) the chemical name, code number, or batch number.
  - ✓ Signal word: used to indicate the relative level of severity of hazard and alert the reader to a potential hazard on the label. There are only two signal words, "Danger" and "Warning." Within a specific hazard class, "Danger" is used for more severe hazards, and "Warning" is used for less severe hazards.
  - ✓ Pictogram: OSHA has designated eight pictograms under this standard for application to a hazard category.
  - ✓ Hazard statement: describes the nature of the hazard(s) of a chemical, including, where appropriate, the degree of hazard. For example: "Causes damage to kidneys through prolonged or repeated exposure when absorbed through the skin."
  - ✓ Precautionary statement: means a phrase that describes recommended measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a hazardous chemical or improper storage or handling.
  - ✓ Name, address, and phone number of the chemical manufacturer, distributor, or importer
- ***How an employee might use the labels in the workplace, including the following examples:***
  - ✓ Explain how information on the label can be used to ensure proper storage of hazardous chemicals.
  - ✓ Explain how the information on the label might be used to quickly locate information on first aid when needed by employees or emergency personnel.
- ***General understanding of how the elements work together on a label, including the following examples:***
  - ✓ Explain that where a chemical has multiple hazards, different pictograms are used to identify the various hazards. The employee should expect to see the appropriate pictogram for the corresponding hazard class.
  - ✓ Explain that when there are similar precautionary statements, the one that provides the most protective information will be included on the label

Training on the format of the safety data sheets (SDS) must include information on the following:

- ***Standardized 16-section format, including the type of information found in the various sections***
- ***How the information on the label is related to the SDS***

This article was developed through the cooperative efforts of the OSHA/Joint Commission Resources Alliance.

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An OSHA Cooperative Program