

Longshore Safety Tip

Part 3 of a 3-Part GHS Series.

July 2013

Globally Harmonized System – LABELS

What is a LABEL?

Labels *must be* attached to packaging containing hazardous chemicals and materials; for example, bottles, cylinders, boxes, and drums. Because OSHA's Hazard Communication ruling adopted the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals, better known as GHS, these labels must now contain certain information. Specifically, labels

must have the following:

- Product identifier
- Signal word
- Hazard statements
- Pictograms
- Precautionary statements
- Name, address, and telephone number of the manufacturer, importer, or other responsible party

*All of this information must be located **together** on the label.*



While labels may look a little different from what you are used to, this standardized format will make it easier for you to find the information you need quickly. Keep this in mind: the GHS requirement does *not* apply to labels or placards that are attached to intermodal containers.




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Required Label Information

- A. Product Identifier** – The product identifier tells what is in the container or package. The name should match the name used on the Safety Data Sheet. It should also note the chemical identity, including all hazardous ingredients.
- B. Signal Word** – A signal word simply alerts the reader quickly to the severity of the chemical's hazard. For example, “danger” and “warning” are common examples of signal words.
- C. Hazard Statement** – A hazard statement is a short phrase that describes the nature of the hazards of the product. For example, you might see “Highly flammable liquid and vapor. May cause liver and kidney damage.”
- D. Pictograms** – Drawings or symbols to represent a specific message quickly alert workers to what they may be exposed. There are nine pictograms from which chemical manufacturers and importers can choose that match the hazards of each product. Each pictogram has a symbol on a white background with a red border and represents a specific hazard.
- E. Precautionary Statements** – Precautionary statements briefly and concisely explain recommended measures for safe handling, storage, and disposal. Examples include “Keep container tightly closed. Store in cool, well ventilated place that is locked... Do not breathe vapors. Wear protective gloves.” It may also indicate how to handle an incident involving the product.
- F. Name, address, telephone number of responsible party.**

A.	CODE Product Name _____		
F.	Company Name _____ Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____ Emergency Phone Number _____		D.
		Danger	B.
E.	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 ₂) 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.	Highly flammable liquid and vapor. May cause liver and kidney damage.	C.
		Directions for Use _____ _____ _____	
		Fill weight: _____ Lot Number: _____ Gross weight: _____ Fill Date: _____ Expiration Date: _____	

Hazard Classes

Manufacturers and importers must determine the hazards of chemicals they produce or import through a detailed hazard classification system identified in the HazCom standard. Because you may come across hazardous chemicals or even work with them, you need to know these hazard classes. The GHS regulation identifies **six hazard classes** for manufacturers and importers to use.

PHYSICAL HAZARD

PHYSICAL – A **physical hazard** exists from chemicals that pose one of these effects: explosive; flammable, oxidizer; self-reactive; pyrophoric; self-heating; organic peroxide; corrosive to metal; gas under pressure; or emits flammable gas when in contact with water. Examples of physical hazards include *heat, cold, noise, ionizing* and *ultraviolet radiation*, and *vibration*.

HEALTH – A **health hazard** is a chemical that poses acute toxicity; skin corrosion or irritation; serious eye damage or eye irritation; respiratory or skin sensitization; germ cell mutagenicity; carcinogenicity; reproductive toxicity; specific target organ toxicity; or aspiration hazard. An example of a health hazard is *corrosive sulfuric acid* found in battery acid. Another example of a health hazard is the carcinogen *benzene*.

HEALTH HAZARD

SIMPLE ASPHYXIANT

SIMPLE ASPHYXIANT – A **simple asphyxiant hazard** is a substance or mixture that displaces oxygen in the atmosphere, causing those exposed to be deprived of oxygen. Those exposed to a simple asphyxiant hazard can become unconscious, and even die. An example of a simple asphyxiant hazard is *nitrogen in a confined space*.

COMBUSTIBLE DUST – **Combustible dust** is a finely divided solid material that can catch fire or explode if ignited in air. Examples include *metal dust*,

COMBUSTIBLE DUST

such as aluminum and magnesium; *wood dust*; *coal* and other *carbon dusts*; *plastic dust* and *additives*; *biosolids*; other *organic dust* such as *sugar*, *flour*, *paper*, *soap*, and *dried blood*; and certain *textile materials*.

PYROPHORIC GAS – A pyrophoric hazard is a gas that will spontaneously ignite in air at or below 130 degrees Fahrenheit. *Silane* is an example of a pyrophoric gas. Silane is used as a water repellent, and in solar panel manufacturing.

PYROPHORIC HAZARD

HNOC

Hazards Not Otherwise Classified (HNOC) – A hazard that falls into this class is an adverse physical or health effect identified in the classification process that does not meet the criteria of other health or physical hazards but either falls below the cut-off value or concentration limit of the hazard class or it is under a GHS hazard category that has not been adopted by OSHA.



Effective Completion Dates and Requirements	DATE	REQUIREMENT(S)
	Dec. 1, 2013	Employees trained on the new label elements and SDS format
	June 1, 2015	Compliance provisions of this final rule
	Dec. 1, 2015	The Distributor shall not ship containers labeled by the chemical manufacturer or importer unless it is a GHS label
	June 1, 2016	Provide additional employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards



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