

# Longshore Safety Tip

Part 1 of a 3-Part GHS Series. Look for Part 2 Next Week.

July 2013

## GHS and YOU: **NEW** HazCom Rules

### What is GHS?



The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals, better known as **GHS**, is a new standardized approach to communicating chemical hazards on labels and Safety Data Sheets throughout the world. In the United States, the

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) adopted GHS into its latest ruling on Hazard Communication, or HazCom, and there are changes in place that you need to know and follow for you and your workplace to be in compliance.



### Benefits of GHS

There are several benefits to having GHS. Once in place, GHS will enhance understanding of hazards, reduce confusion in the workplace, and overall, help prevent injuries and illnesses. In effect, it is expected that *GHS will help save lives!*

#### Standardized SDS

GHS rules now require the use of a standardized, 16-section Safety Data Sheet, or SDS, to be used for all chemicals in the workplace.



#### Standardized Labels

Labels for packages of hazardous chemicals or materials must now have standardized elements on *every* warning label.

#### Pictograms

GHS requires the use of certain symbols or “pictograms” to be used on labels. Each pictogram indicates a particular hazard. You will likely be familiar with these images since many of them are also used on the placards you see on intermodal containers.



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# PICTOGRAMS

Pictograms, drawings or symbols, to represent a specific message, are required on every label to quickly alert workers of possible exposure to hazards. Nine pictograms are used by chemical manufacturers and importers to match the hazards of each

product. Each pictogram is a symbol on a white background with a red border and each represents a specific hazard. You should already know some of these images; others will be unfamiliar. Those new images are marked as “NEW” below.

## Chronic (Health Hazard) – **NEW**



The *health hazard* pictogram shows the outline of a person with a star in the center and applies to chemicals with one of these characteristics:

- carcinogen
- mutagenicity
- reproductive toxicity
- respiratory sensitizer
- target organ toxicity
- aspiration toxicity.

## Flammable (Flame)



The *flame* pictogram shows the symbol of fire in the center and applies to chemicals with one of these characteristics:

- flammable
- pyrophoric
- self-heating
- emits flammable gas
- self-reactive
- organic peroxide.

## Irritant (Exclamation Mark)– **NEW**



The *exclamation mark* pictogram shows an exclamation mark in the center and applies to chemicals with one of these characteristics:

- irritant
- skin sensitizer
- acute toxicity
- narcotic effects
- respiratory tract irritant
- hazardous to the ozone layer.

## Gas Under Pressure (Gas Cylinder)



The *gas cylinder* pictogram shows a gas tank in the center and applies to chemicals that are gases under pressure.

# PICTOGRAMS

## Corrosive to Human Tissue (Corrosion)



The *corrosion* pictogram shows two test tubes, one dripping liquid and eating into a solid surface and the other dripping liquid and eating into a human hand. This pictogram applies to chemicals that may:

- corrode the skin
- burn the skin
- cause eye damage
- corrode metals.

## Explosive (Exploding Bomb)



The *exploding bomb* pictogram shows a ball in the center that is broken with lines bursting out. This pictogram applies to chemicals that are:

- explosive
- self-reactive
- organic peroxides.

## Oxidizer (Flame Over Circle)



The *flame over circle* pictogram literally shows a flame emitting above a circle and applies to chemicals that are oxidizers.

## Acute (Skull and Crossbones)



The *skull and crossbones* pictogram literally shows a skull and crossbones image in the center and applies to chemicals having acute toxicity, being fatal or just toxic.

## Environment – **NEW**



The *environment* pictogram, which is not mandatory, shows a bare tree and a body of water with a fish upside down. This pictogram applies to chemicals having aquatic toxicity.

# PICTOGRAMS IN ACTION

CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
Product Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



**Danger**

**Highly flammable liquid and vapor.  
May cause liver and kidney damage.**

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.

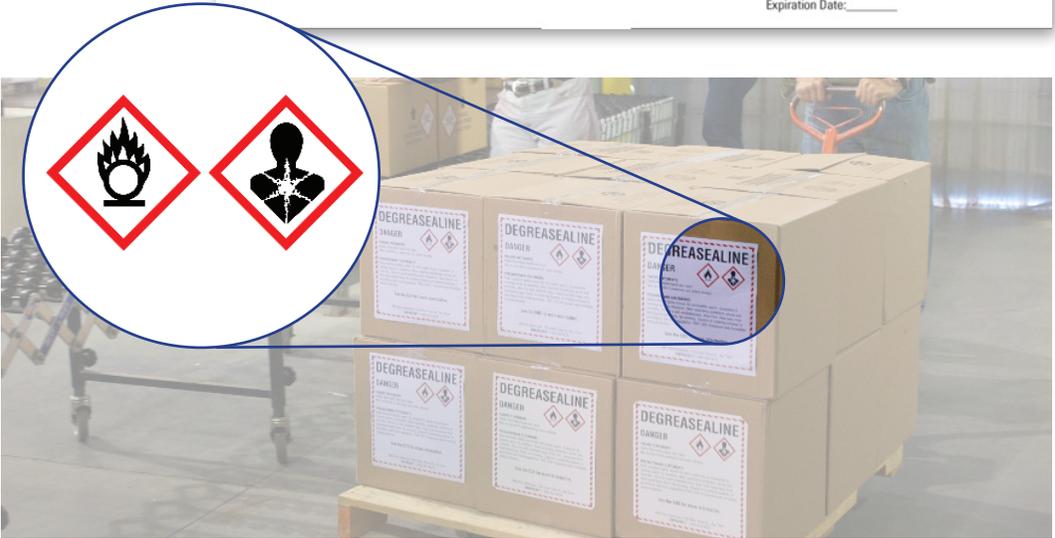
**In Case of Fire:** use dry chemical (BC) or Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) fire extinguisher to extinguish.

**First Aid**  
If exposed call Poison Center.  
If on skin (or hair): Take off immediately any contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water.

**Directions for Use**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fill weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Lot Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gross weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Fill Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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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