

Hazard Warning Labels

Chemical hazard warning labels are one way of informing you of hazards and of how to protect yourself when using or storing that material.

Hazard warning labels must be placed on every container of hazardous chemicals which is in the workplace.

Labels and other forms of warning must be legible, in English, and prominently displayed on the container or readily available in the work area throughout each shift.

Employers may add information in languages other than English as long as it is presented in English as well.

A hazard warning label is not intended to be the sole or most complete source of hazard information. For complete hazard information, always refer to the SDS.

What Must Be on the Label?

Containers of hazardous chemicals in the workplace or which leave the workplace must be labeled with these six required elements:

- Product identifier
- Pictogram
- Signal word
- Hazard statement(s)
- Precautionary statement(s)
- Name, address, and telephone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer, or other responsible party

Your employer may use workplace or in-house labeling in place of GHS-style labeling on containers that do not leave the workplace. This alternative labeling must include:

- Product identifier, and

Hazard Warning Labels

- Words, pictures, symbols, or combinations thereof, which provide information regarding the hazards of the chemicals.

Is There a Specified Label Format?

Neither OSHA nor GHS specify any label format or label design. The pictograms, signal word, and hazard statements should be located together on the label.

What Is the Product Identifier?

The product identifier is the name or number used on the label and on the SDS. It can be a chemical name, a product name, or some other unique identifier that allows you to locate the SDS quickly.

What Are Pictograms?

For HCS purposes, a pictogram is a symbol on a white background with a red border that is intended to convey specific information about the hazards of a chemical.

The pictograms which appear on the label are determined by the chemical's hazard classification.



Flame over circle is used to denote oxidizers.