

CHEMICAL CONTAINER LABELING

Label Requirements

Labels are defined in the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) as information provided through a group of written, printed or graphic appropriate elements concerning a hazardous chemical that are placed on the immediate container of a hazardous chemical. The Hazard Communication Standard also now known as the Right to Understand Standard requires chemical manufacturers, importers, or distributors to ensure that each container of hazardous chemical is labeled, tagged or marked. Employers also have a responsibility for labeling and ensuring employees are trained on hazardous chemicals.

Employer Labeling Responsibilities

Employers are responsible for maintaining the labels on containers, including, but not limited to tanks, totes, and drums. This means that labels must be maintained on chemicals in a manner which continues to be legible and the pertinent information (such as the hazards and directions for use) does not get defaced (i.e., fade, get washed off) or removed in any way.

The employer must relabel items if the labels are removed or defaced. On secondary containers the employer must ensure that if they are not being used immediately that they create and place labels on all hazardous chemicals. Furthermore, if the employer is aware of newly-identified hazards that are not disclosed on the label, the employer must ensure that the workers are aware, through training, of the associated hazards.

Workplace Labels

OSHA has not changed the general requirements for workplace labeling, but they 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.

Workplace labels must be provided in English. Other languages may be added to the label if applicable or necessary. Employers may use additional instructional symbols that are not included in OSHA's HCS pictograms on the workplace labels. An example of an instructional pictogram is a person with goggles, denoting that goggles must be worn while handling the given chemical. Including both types of pictograms on workplace labels is acceptable.

If an employer transfers hazardous chemicals from a labeled container to a portable secondary container that is only intended for immediate use by the employee who performs the transfer, no labels are required for the portable container. If the employee will not have direct control of the transferred chemical until it is exhausted, then the container must contain a label to warn other employees what the contents are. A labeled container is not a replacement for having the appropriate SDS available to the employee.

Used drink or food containers are not to be used for secondary containers since the chemical may react with the left over residue, or employees may think what is on the label is what is in the container (i.e. sports drink) and could accidentally consume the liquid. Only use the containers provided by your employer and follow their labeling practices.

Employee/Worker Responsibilities

Employees are responsible to participate in training. The identification of chemical containers with missing or damaged labeling should be reported to the employer immediately. Employees should not use chemicals that are not labeled appropriately or those chemicals which they have not received hazard communication training.

Together we can make work safe.



Company: _____

Location: _____

Topic: _____

Date: _____

WEEKLY SAFETY PROGRAM REVIEW AND PRESENTATION

1. Remind all employees that it is their right to a safe work place. Each employee is responsible to report and respond to unsafe work practices and conditions.

2. Review of recent incidents, injuries, and reported near misses.

3. Recent observations, safety violations, and demonstrated lack of knowledge or skills.

4. Employee suggested corrective actions for avoiding future reoccurrences.

5. Existing and upcoming work activities and potential hazards. Include review of supporting materials or documents and demonstrate safe work procedures.

6. Employee workplace safety concerns and recommendations.

7. Safety topic presentation. Include review of company policies, procedures, and location specific expectations. Encourage questions and clarifications.

8. Additional meeting notes.

Company: _____

Location: _____

Topic: _____

Date: _____

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Printed Full Legal Name	Signature
Instructor 1:	
Instructor 2:	
Translator:	