



PROTECT YOURSELF:

The Globally Harmonized System of Hazard Communication

OSHA has revised its Hazard Communication Standard so it's part of a globally harmonized system for communicating chemical hazards. Now, every chemical label and every Safety Data sheet will be identical in its format and contain easy-to-read information. You have a right to know about the chemicals you work with each day. Use the container labels and safety data sheet (SDS) information to effectively protect yourself from chemical hazards.

Protect yourself.

Refer to the six key information areas on chemical labels:

1. Product Identifier

The name or number used to identify a hazardous chemical

2. Signal Words

- Warning: less severe hazards
- Danger: more severe hazards

3. Pictograms



Health Hazards

Prolonged exposure to these chemicals may cause health problems like cancer or birth defects.



Flame

Flammable chemicals that can burst into flame.



Exclamation Mark

Chemicals that can cause immediate health effects like skin rashes or respiratory irritation.



Gas Cylinder

Gases under pressure which can explode or propel the cylinder if it is heated, ruptured or leaking.



Corrosion

Chemicals that can seriously damage skin and eyes.



Exploding Bomb

Chemicals that can blow up.



Flame Over Circle

Chemicals that cause other materials to catch fire or explode.



Skull and Crossbones

Chemicals with acute toxicity which could be fatal or toxic.

4. Hazard Statement

Describes the nature of the potential hazard

5. Precautionary Statement

States the recommended protective measures to keep yourself and others safe

6. Contact Information

- Manufacturer's name, address and telephone number
- Importer (or other responsible party)

Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

All Safety Data Sheets follow the same format, regardless of manufacturer. Look to these sections to find the information you need:

- Section 1. Identification
- Section 2. Hazard Identification
- Section 3. Composition/Information on Ingredients
- Section 4. First Aid Measures
- Section 5. Fire-Fighting Measures
- Section 6. Accidental Release Measures
- Section 7. Handling and Storage
- Section 8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection
- Section 9. Physical and Chemical Properties
- Section 10. Stability and Reactivity
- Section 11. Toxicological Information
- Sections 12-15 (do not apply to workplace safety)
- Section 16. Other information (including SDS updates)