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The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals

News

You have the ***"Right to Know"*** about hazardous chemicals in the workplace…

And the ***"Right to Understand"*** with the new Hazard Communication Standard called the ***Global Harmonized System (GHS)***

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What is the GHS?

Created by the United Nations in 1992

Designed to replace the various classification and labeling systems used around the world by using consistant criteria on a global level.

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What is the timeline for GHS?

The final rule was adopted by the US in March 2012:

Product manufacturers to adopt the standard by June 1, 2015

Product distributors to adopt the standard by December 1, 2015.

Workers must be trained by December 1, 2013.

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What is the new GHS system?

The new GHS system replaces the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) with a Safety Data Sheet (SDS). The SDS is meant to be easier to understand. This is also reflected by new labels on hazardous chemicals.

Please note that durning the transition period, some products may be supplied with both a SDS and MSDS. Take some time and compare the two!

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What does the GHS training cover?

As a chemical USER, this training will only target the changes to SDS material, including the new pictograms

Old (Hints) vs. New (Pics)

"This product may be flammable…"

"540° Boiling Point"

"280° Flash Point"

"Keep away from open flame"

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SDS Required Format from Supplier

Section 1. Identification
Section 2. Hazard(s) 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 & chemical properties
Section 10. Stability & reactivity
Section 11. Toxicological information

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Section 12. Ecological information
Section 13. Disposal considerations
Section 14. Transport information
Section 15. Regulatory information
Section 16. Other information, e.g. preparation date, last revision

Sections 12-15 may be included in the SDS, but are not required

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Hazard ID

There are 9 pictograms to relay information about the product hazards (8 OSHA, 1 EPA).

- Health
- Physical
- Environmental hazards

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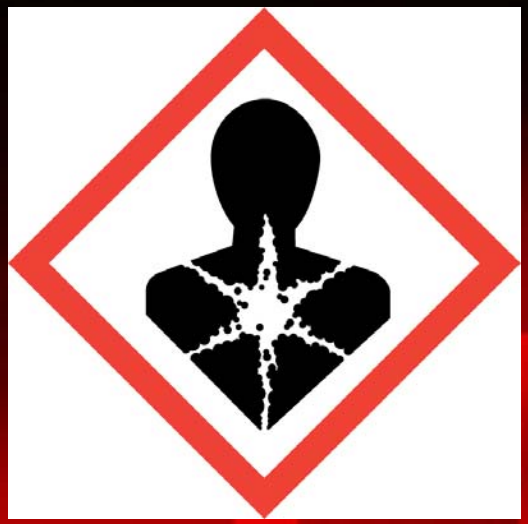
Health Hazard



Carcinogen
Mutagenicity
Reproductive Toxicity
Respiratory Sensitizer
Target Organ Toxicity
Aspiration Toxicity

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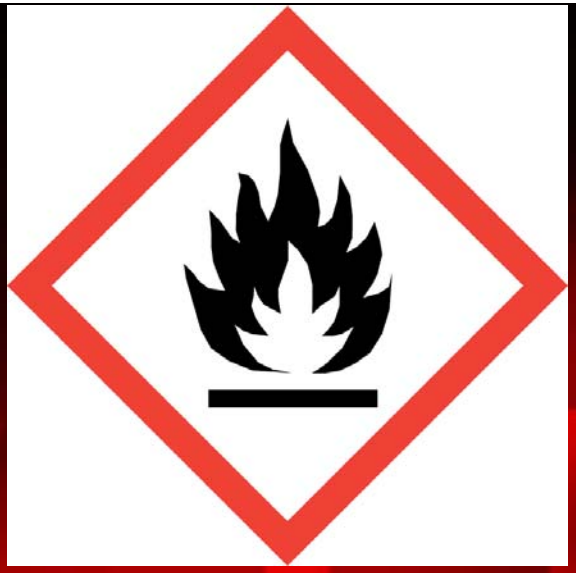
Flame



Flammables
Pyrophorics
Self-Heating
Emits Flammable Gas
Self-Reactives
Organic Peroxides

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Exclamation Mark

Irritant (skin and eye)
Skin Sensitizer
Acute Toxicity (harmful)
Narcotic Effects
Respiratory Tract Irritant
Hazardous to Ozone Layer

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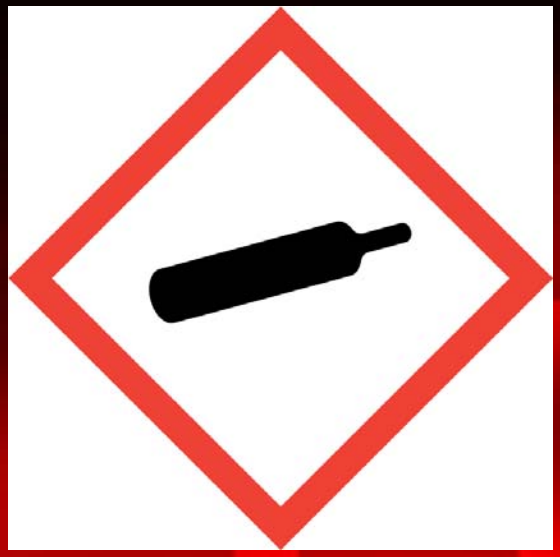
Gas Cylinder



Gases under pressure

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Corrosion

Skin Corrosion/ burns
Eye Damage
Corrosive to Metals

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Exploding Bomb

Explosives
Self-Reactives
Organic Peroxides

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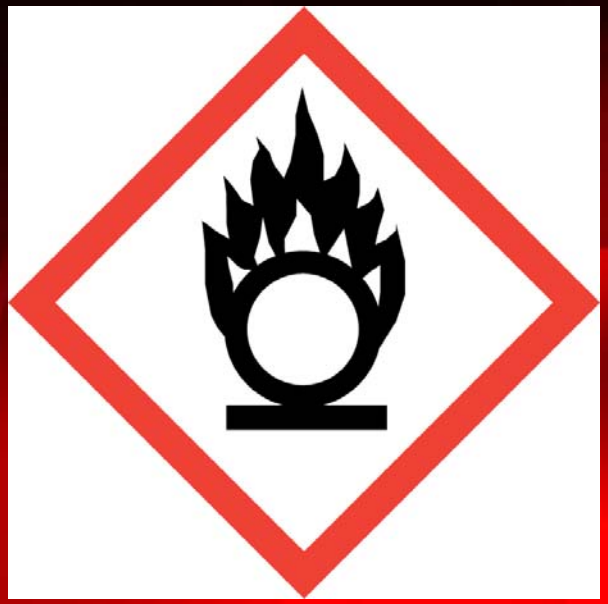
Flame over circle



Oxidizers

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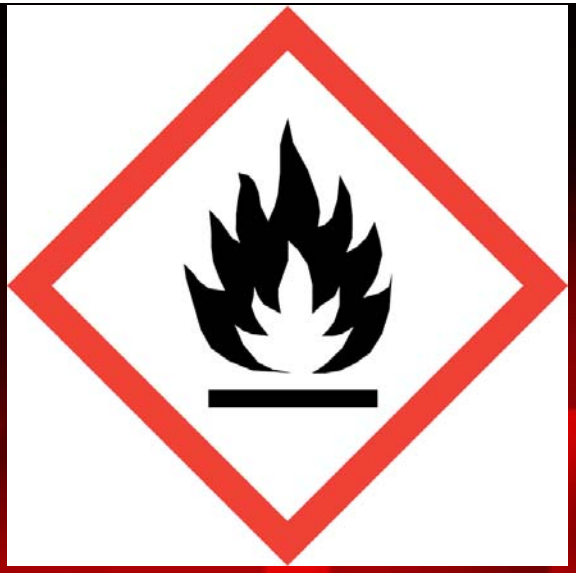
Flame



Flammables
Pyrophorics
Self-Heating
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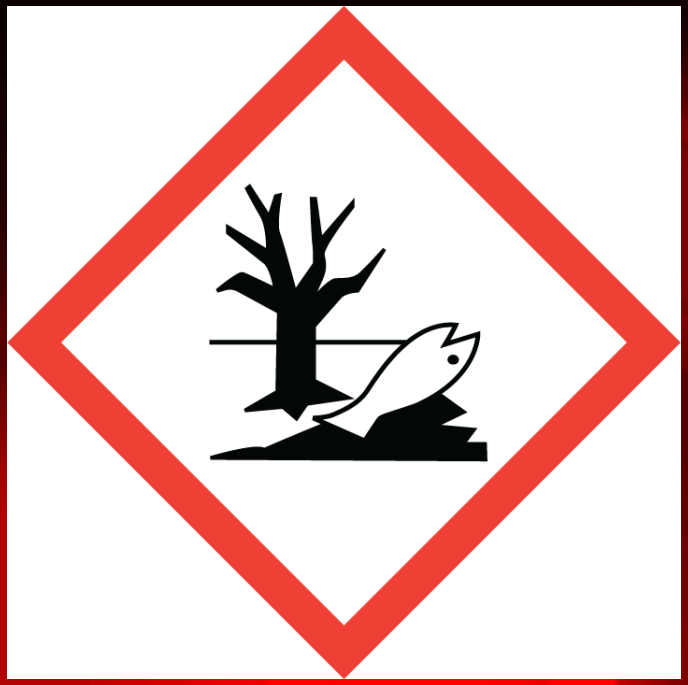
Environment



Aquatic Toxicity

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Skull and Crossbones

Acute Toxicity (fatal or toxic)

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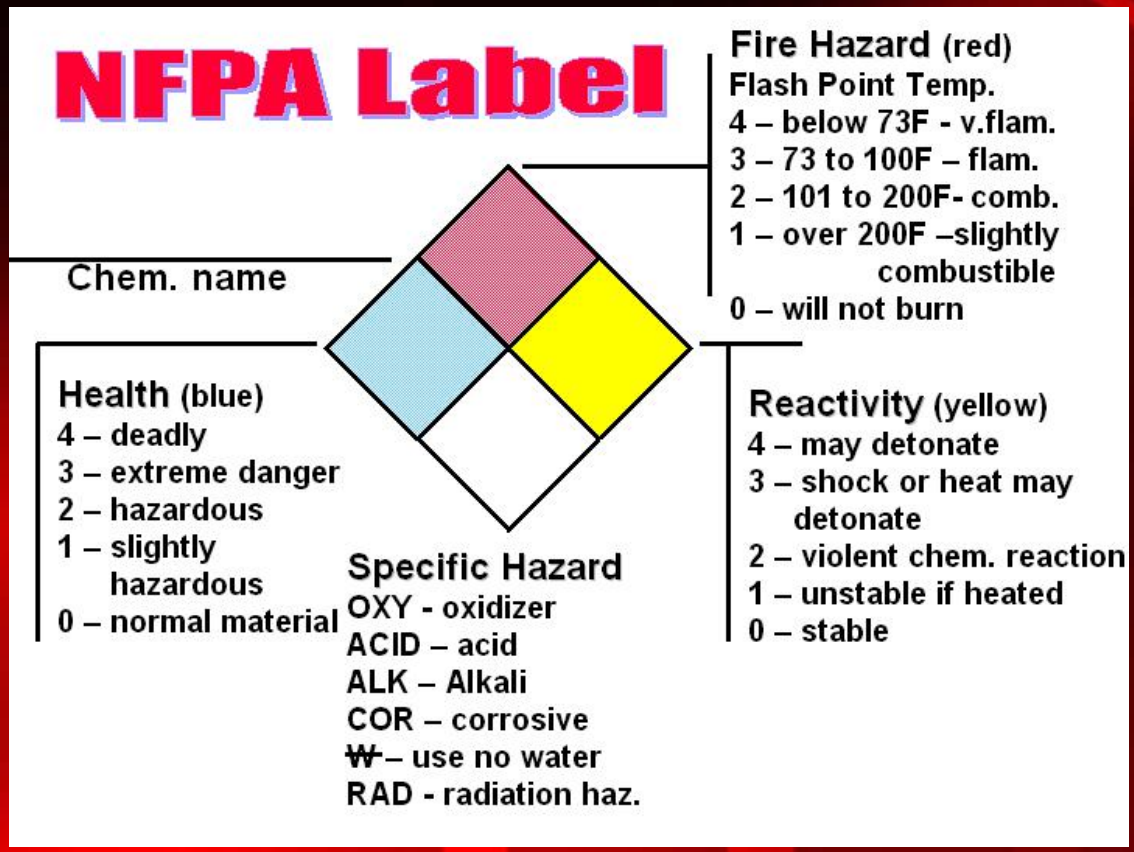
Secondary Labeling



Employers may choose to label containers either with the same label that would be on shipped containers for the chemical under the GHS, or with labels that meet the requirements for the federal standard.

Signal Word

A signal word will also be on the label to indicate the relative level of severity of hazard and alert the reader to a potential hazard on the label. The signal words used are "danger" and "warning."

"Danger" is used for the more severe hazards

"Warning" is used for less severe hazards.

What Should You Do With Your Old MSDS?

Federal law requires the workplace to keep MSDS for 30 years following the end of the product use.

With the new GHS system, there will be an overlap for some items where there is a MSDS and a SDS. Place the SDS in the work area and file the MSDS.

If you have older products where the manufacturer has gone out of business or is no longer producing the product, the old MSDS will be grandfathered in.

By 2015, each employer will be required to have the SDS for each workplace chemical.

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When do we need to do RTK/GHS training?

- With any new product
- With any new employee
- Annually

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Need Help?

By Phone:
UGA FMD Safety 706-542-1141
UGA Environmental Safety Division 706-542-5801

Internet link:
http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/pictograms.html

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