

THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM (GHS) OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELING OF CHEMICALS


****What You Need to Know****


There are several key changes to current practices of chemical labeling and hazard communication that will affect laboratory workers under the GHS

 **Pictograms and Hazards** -Under the new system, label **borders** must be **red** in color, with the **pictogram** appearing inside the frame; no blank labels are permitted.

For the complete GHS pictogram list refer to <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html>



 Within the **workplace**, employees may utilize different labeling systems, such as the HMIS or NFPA systems, as long as they convey the same types of information as a GHS label, and as long as they do not create a conflict with existing labels.

 Employers who become **newly aware** of any significant **information** regarding the hazards of a chemical shall **revise** the **labels** for the chemical within six months of becoming aware of the new information.

Complete GHS Training Online <http://www.rascal.columbia.edu>

Who –The US Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, and the international community of manufacturers, suppliers and users of hazardous chemicals.


What – Updated standards for classification and labeling of hazardous chemicals.

When – As of March, 2012, OSHA has adopted the GHS. Employers are required to train employees on certain elements of the GHS by December, 2013. This flyer is part of those training efforts.

Why – OSHA has adopted the standard in an effort to improve safety conditions for workers. By employing the GHS, OSHA hopes to eliminate confusion over labeling differences, and ensure consistency of hazard communication information.



Labels – Under the GHS, hazard communication labels are now required to contain the following features: **product identifier, supplier information, precautionary statements, hazard pictograms, signal word, hazard statements, and supplemental information.** For a comprehensive list of label components and descriptions go to <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3636.pdf>

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Product ID | n-Propyl Alcohol |  | Example of a new GHS compliant label including all the new features: |
| | UN No. 1274 CAS No. 71-23-8 | | Pictogram |
| Signal Word | DANGER | | |
| Hazard Statement | Highly flammable liquid and vapor. Causes serious eye damage. May cause drowsiness and dizziness. | | |
| Precautionary Statement | Keep away from heat/sparks/open flames/hot surfaces. No smoking. Avoid breathing fumes/mist/vapours/spray. Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection. IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses if present. Continue rinsing. | | |
| | Fill Weight: 18.65 lbs. Lot Number: B56754434 Gross Weight: 20 lbs. Fill Date: 6/21/2013 Expiration Date: 6/21/2020 | See SDS for further information. | Supplemental Information |
| Supplier Info | Acme Chemical Company • 711 Roadrunner St. • Chicago, IL 60601 USA • www.acmechem.com • 123-444-5567 | | |

Pictogram: a symbol plus other graphic elements, such as a border, background pattern, or color that is intended to convey specific information about the hazards of a chemical. Each pictogram consists of a **different symbol** on a **white background** within a **red square frame set on a point** (i.e. a red diamond). There are **nine pictograms** under the GHS. However, only eight pictograms are required under the HCS.

Signal Words: A **single word** used 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**, while “**warning**” is used for less severe hazards.

Hazard Statement: A standardized statement assigned to a **hazard class** and category that describes the nature of the hazard(s) of a chemical, including, where appropriate, the **degree of hazard**.

Precautionary Statement: A phrase that describes **recommended measures** to be taken to **minimize or prevent adverse effects** resulting from exposure to a hazardous chemical, or improper storage or handling of a hazardous chemical.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) - Formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), Safety Data Sheets will now appear in a standardized format, with consistent section headings in a specified sequence:

- 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 and chemical properties

- Section 10. Stability and reactivity
- Section 11. Toxicological information
- Section 12. Ecological information
- Section 13. Disposal considerations
- Section 14. Transport information
- Section 15. Regulatory information
- Section 16. Other information, including date of preparation or last revision

Review safety data sheets here <http://www.sigmaldrich.com/safety-center.html>

