



## GOALS

This safety session teaches employees to:

- Identify hazard and precautionary information on GHS labels.
- Use chemical container labels effectively to prevent injuries and illness.

### Applicable Regulations: 29 CFR 1910.1200 (Hazard communication)



#### 1. The GHS requires new labels for chemical containers.

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has adopted the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) as part of the Hazard Communication Standard.
- As a result of the implementation of the GHS, new labels for chemical containers have been designed to provide more complete, standardized, and easily accessible safety and health information.
- Workplaces may use alternatives to GHS labels as long as the alternative label is consistent with GHS label requirements.
  - For example, your workplace might use National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) labels or Hazardous Material Information System (HMIS) labels.

#### 2. GHS labels provide basic information about workplace chemicals.

- Each hazardous chemical label must be prominently displayed, and text must be in English.
  - Other languages may also be included, if appropriate, but can't be substituted for English.
- Labels must include a "product identifier," which gives a name or number that enables the user to identify the chemical.
  - The identifier must allow you to cross-reference information on the label with the list of hazardous chemicals in your organization's written hazard communication program and the information on the safety data sheet (SDS).
- Labels must give information about the chemical supplier, including the name, address, and telephone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer, or other responsible party.
- Supplemental information, such as directions for use, fill date, expiration date, and weight, may also be provided.
- GHS labels will also provide information about first aid and what to do in case of a fire involving the chemical, if appropriate.

#### 3. GHS labels specifically identify hazards in words and graphics.

- GHS labels include a signal word to indicate the severity of the hazard, such as the more severe word "danger" or the less severe "warning."
- Hazard statements assigned to a hazard class and category describe the nature of the hazards of a chemical, including the degree of hazard, where appropriate.
  - For example, "Highly flammable liquid and vapor. May cause liver and kidney damage."



- Pictograms required on GHS labels may include a symbol and other graphic elements intended to convey specific information about the hazards of a chemical.
  - Pictograms are displayed on a white background within a diamond-shaped box with a red border.
- GHS labels include precautionary statements that describe recommended measures to minimize or prevent injury or illness resulting from exposure to a hazardous chemical, or from improper storage or handling.
  - For example, “Keep container tightly closed,” “Store in a cool, well-ventilated place that is locked,” “Do not breathe vapors,” and “Wear protective gloves.”

#### 4. Always read labels carefully before using a hazardous chemical.

- Before handling any hazardous chemical, read the label to identify hazards and required precautionary measures to prevent exposures.
- Pay special attention to hazard warnings and take them seriously.
- If there is anything you don’t understand about any information on a chemical label, ask your supervisor before using the chemical.
- In addition to reading the label, also consult the SDS before using a chemical.
- Report missing labels or labels that are damaged or cannot be read.
  - Do not use a container if it is not properly labeled.



#### DISCUSSION POINTS:

Bring samples of GHS labels (or other GHS-compliant labels used in your workplace) to the meeting and review them with participants. Make sure that participants can identify the information on the labels. Also, explain the procedure for reporting missing or damaged labels.



#### CONCLUSION:

- GHS labels contain important safety and health information.
- Always read the label before using any hazardous chemical. The label contains hazard warnings and precautionary measures that can protect you from harmful exposures.



#### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Have your employees take the Understanding GHS Labels quiz. By testing their knowledge, you can judge their ability to understand GHS labels and whether they need to review this important topic again soon.



## The Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) Labels at a Glance

### Product identifier

gives a name or number that enables you to identify the chemical and cross-reference the label to the safety data sheet (SDS).

### Hazard pictograms

convey specific hazard information using symbols or graphics.

### Signal word

indicates the severity of the hazard.

### Hazard statement

describes the nature of the hazard.

### Supplemental information

such as directions for use, fill date, expiration date, weight, etc. may also be provided.

### Supplier information

tells you the name, address, and phone number of the manufacturer, importer, or other responsible party.

### Precautionary statements

describe recommended measures to minimize or prevent injury or illness due to exposure to the chemical or from improper handling or storage.

**In case of fire,** the label tells you how to extinguish it.

**SAMPLE LABEL**

**PRODUCT IDENTIFIER**

**CODE**  
Product Name \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION**

**Company Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS**

Keep container tightly closed. Store in cool, well ventilated place that is locked.  
Keep away from heat/sparks/open flame. No smoking.  
Only use non-sparking tools.  
Use explosion-proof electrical equipment.  
Take precautionary measure against static discharge.  
Ground and bond container and receiving equipment.  
Do not breathe vapors.  
Wear Protective gloves.  
Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.  
Wash hands thoroughly after handling.  
Dispose of in accordance with local, regional, national, international regulations as specified.

**In Case of Fire:** use dry chemical (BC) or Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) fire extinguisher to extinguish.

**First Aid**  
If exposed call Poison Center.  
If on skin (on hair): Take off immediately any contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water.

**HAZARD PICTOGRAMS**

**SIGNAL WORD**  
**Danger**

**HAZARD STATEMENT**  
**Highly flammable liquid and vapor.**  
**May cause liver and kidney damage.**

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

**Directions for use**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Fill weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Lot Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Gross weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Fill Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### First-aid information

can help you act quickly and effectively in an emergency.