

Hazardous Chemical Containers Labeling

The hazard communication standard (OSHA, CFR1910.1200) ensures that workers who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals know about the chemicals' hazards and understand how to protect themselves from exposure. All containers shall be properly labeled. If a container is incorrectly labeled or has no label, a worker may not know its contents or whether the substance is being used and stored safely.

Primary / Original Containers

When purchasing hazardous chemicals from a manufacturer, importer, or distributor ensure that they are correctly labeled with the chemical's identity and hazard warning and that SDS sheets are provided.



Secondary Containers

Used by the employer to store, apply, and transport hazardous chemicals. If you transfer a hazardous chemical from a labeled container to a secondary container, label the container properly. Labels must include the identity of the chemical and hazard warnings.



Portable Containers

Portable containers are secondary containers used to transfer, store, or apply hazardous chemicals. May include bottles, cans, boxes, and sprayers. If chemicals are not used immediately then labels must be used. Labels must be used when:

- a. The material is not used within the work shift of the employee making the transfer.
- b. The employee that made the transfer leaves the work area or when the container is moved to another work area and is no longer in possession of the employee who filled the container.



Remember!

- Blank labels may be purchased from vendors of safety equipment and supplies.
- All secondary containers that will be stored, or used by others, or are not used immediately must be labeled, tagged, or marked properly with the product identifier, signal word, pictogram(s), hazard statement(s), and precautionary statement(s) of the hazardous chemical.
- In addition to container labeling the employer must provide and have available for employee use, the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each product. The SDS contains information not found on the label.
- Always review labels and SDS before using any hazardous chemical product. Use all recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).