

Chemical Labelling

YOURSAFETY@IRP - ToolBox Discussion

Chemical Labelling

Labels on hazardous chemicals provide a quick and simple warning system for users, other people who may come into contact with a harmful chemical and of course the environment.

In 2017, Australia introduced a global labelling system, GHS - Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. Created by the United Nations, GHS is a single worldwide methodology for chemical classification, labelling and safety data sheets. More detailed information can be found at [GHS Information Sheet](#).

If a workplace chemical is classified as hazardous using the system, a GHS based label and SDS (safety data sheet) will be required.

Hazardous Chemical Labels

In general, a label is required for any hazardous chemical used in the workplace and must be labelled in accordance with as per Section 7 of the [Model WHS Regulations](#).

What information will you find on the label?

Hazardous chemical labels contain important information, including:

- The product identifier.
- The name, Australian address and business telephone number of the manufacturer or importer.
- The identity and proportion of each ingredient
- Any hazard pictogram consistent with the correct classification of the chemical.
- Any hazard statement, signal word and precautionary statement consistent with the correct classification of the chemical.
- Any information about the hazards, first aid and emergency procedures relevant to the chemical, which are not included in the hazard statement or precautionary statement.
- An expiry date, if applicable.

The label may include an emergency phone number for specific poisons or treatment advice.

Transporting Hazardous Chemicals

Under the Model WHS Regulations, pictograms from GHS may be substituted with correct Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) class labels where both represent the same hazard.

An ADG Code (Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road & Rail) label is required for any hazardous chemical predominantly intended for workplace use.

Comparison of hazard pictograms with ADG class labels can be downloaded [here](#) or see Appendix G of [Labelling of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals Code of Practice](#).



Hazchem

Hazchem Codes fall under the ADG codes are also known as an Emergency Action Code.

Safety data sheets (SDSs)

A safety data sheet (SDS), previously called a material safety data sheet (MSDS), is a document that provides information on the properties of hazardous chemicals and how they affect health and safety in the workplace.

In an SDS, information on the chemical hazards is based on the GHS system of classification, rather than the hazardous substances and dangerous goods classifications. The label should be reviewed alongside SDS, which must be completed at least every five years.

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Toolbox Talk Quiz

1. If you were using a yellow labelled Oxidizing Agent, what type of substance would you be using?
2. What is Mutagenicity?
3. Which is more hazardous, Category 1 or Category 4 chemicals?
4. There are 6 key symbols or pictograms indicating the unique chemical hazard, what does each mean?