

# 1 - Checking The Label: Safety Training

EH&S – MGA

**Goals: This safety session should teach you to:**

- A. Recognize and understand different chemical label formats.
- B. Know how to use label information to identify chemical hazards and protections.

**OSHA Regulations: 29 CFR 1910.1200**

## **1. OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard Gives You the Right to Know About Chemical Hazards and Protections**

### **2. Chemical Container Labels Are an Important Source of Information**

- A. Chemical manufacturers must provide labels with their products.
- B. Employers must make sure each container has a readable label.
- C. Signs, placards, or similar materials may be used instead of labels.
- D. Employees must read the label before using any chemical.



### **3. The Label Identifies the Chemical**

- A. Gives its common and/or chemical name
- B. Gives the name and address of the chemical's manufacturer or importer

### **4. The Label Identifies the Chemical's Hazards**

- A. It warns about the chemical's possible dangers, including:
  - 1. Physical hazards that could develop if you don't handle the chemical properly (e.g., fire; explosion; reactivity if exposed to heat, air, water, another chemical)
  - 2. Health hazards if you're overexposed to the chemical (e.g., headache, nausea, skin burns, breathing problems, cancer, etc.)

## 5. A Label's Hazard Warnings May Use Words, Pictures, Colors, or Numbers

- A. Words may list specific hazards (e.g., flammable, corrosive).
- B. Words may signal level of risk:
  - 1. DANGER: can cause immediate serious injury or death
  - 2. WARNING: can cause serious injury or death
  - 3. CAUTION: can cause moderate injury
- C. Pictures may illustrate hazards (flame for fire, skull and crossbones for poison).
- D. Colors may be used instead of words or pictures:
  - 1. RED = Fire hazard
  - 2. YELLOW = Reactivity hazard
  - 3. BLUE = Health hazard
  - 4. WHITE = Specific hazard such as acid or corrosive, or the personal protective equipment you need to protect against this hazard
- E. Numbers (which are often combined with colors) tell how serious the hazard is:
  - 1. 0 = Minimal hazard
  - 2. 1 = Slight hazard
  - 3. 2 = Moderate hazard
  - 4. 3 = Serious hazard
  - 5. 4 = Severe hazard

## 6. Labels May Also Include Safety Precautions

- A. Safe storage and handling instructions (e.g., Keep away from sparks, heat, or flame.)
- B. Protective clothing and hygiene instructions (e.g., Use eye protection.)
- C. Emergency instructions (first aid for exposure, what to use on a fire or spill)

## 7. Always Read the Label Before Using or Handling a Chemical

- A. Read the label and then read the MSDS so you have full information.
- B. Obey label warnings and follow their instructions.
- C. Don't use a substance in an unlabeled container.
- D. Report all missing, dirty, or unreadable labels so they can be replaced.
- E. Don't cover labels so they can't be read.
- F. Place labels on portable containers used for chemicals.

## **Summation: Use Label Information to Work Safely With Chemicals**

Exercise your right to know about chemical hazards and protections by reading container labels and taking the proper precautions.