

Hazard Communication Definitions

Chemical means any substance or mixture of substances

Container means any bag, barrel, bottle, box, can, cylinder, drum, reaction vessel, storage tank or the like that contains a hazardous chemical.

Exposure or exposed means that an employee is subjected in the course of employment to a chemical that is a physical or health hazard and includes potential (e.g. accidental or possible) exposure.

Hazard Class means the nature of the physical or health hazards, e.g. flammable solid, carcinogen, oral acute toxicity.

Hazardous Chemical means any chemical which is classified as a physical hazard or a health hazard, a simple asphyxiant, combustible dust, pyrophoric gas or hazard not otherwise classified.

Health Hazard means a chemical which is classified as posing one of the following hazardous effects: acute toxicity (any route of exposure); skin corrosion or irritation; serious eye damage or eye irritation; respiratory or skin sensitization; germ cell mutagenicity; carcinogenicity; reproductive toxicity; specific target organ toxicity (single or repeated exposure); or aspiration hazard.

Immediate Use means that the hazardous chemical will be under the control of and used only by the person who transfers it from a labeled container and only within the work shift in which it is transferred.

Label means an appropriate group of written, printed or graphic information elements concerning a hazardous chemical that is affixed to, printed on or attached to the immediate container of hazardous chemical or to the outside packaging.

Label Elements means the specified pictogram, hazard statement, signal word and precautionary statement for each hazard class and category.

Physical Hazard means a chemical that is classified as posing one of the following hazardous effects: explosive; flammable (gases, aerosols, liquids or solids); oxidizer (liquid, solid or gas); self-reactive; pyrophoric (liquid or solid); self-heating; organic peroxide; corrosive to metal; gas under pressure; or in contact with water emits flammable gas.

Pictogram means a composition that may include 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. Eight pictograms are designated for application to a hazard category. See Appendix 3 for specific pictograms.

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

Pyrophoric Gas means a chemical in a gaseous state that will ignite spontaneously in air at a temperature of 130 degrees F or below.

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Safety Data Sheet (SDS) means written or printed material concerning a hazardous chemical that is prepared in accordance with the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard. Formerly known as a Material Safety Data Sheet.

Signal Word means a 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 the less severe.

Simple Asphyxiant means a substance or mixture that displaces oxygen in the ambient atmosphere and can thus cause oxygen deprivation in those who are exposed, leading to unconsciousness and death.

Substance means chemical elements and their compounds in the natural state or obtained by any production process, including any additive necessary to preserve the stability of the product and any impurities deriving from the process used but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition.

Work Area means a room or defined space in a workplace where hazardous chemicals are produced or used and where employees are present.

Workplace means an establishment, job site or project, at one geographical location containing one or more work areas.