

## Labels - How Do the HCS Label Changes Affect You?


[This is the fourth module explaining changes in OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard. Note that these HCS label changes are mandatory only for non-pesticide chemicals in the workplace. EPA regulates pesticides and is not requiring pesticide manufacturers to make these changes. See Techletter, July 7, 2013 for the introduction to OSHA's training requirements for technicians.]

As a pest control technician, you are probably in a better position than many American workers to understand hazardous chemical labels because you already work with the same elements on pesticide labels. You're familiar with the concept of signal words, precautionary statements, and hazard statements. Non-pesticide hazardous products must carry this same information but for these products, the information is now presented in a simpler, more graphic, and more standardized way than it used to be.

Even though the HCS label changes are for non-pesticide products, it's important for PMPs to understand these changes because there are occasions when pest control technicians are using, or are exposed to, hazardous chemicals that are not pesticides. For example, gasoline, propane, bleach, alcohol, cleaning solutions, and various solvents are all non-pesticide hazardous chemicals that could be found in your company's storage area or even in a technician's vehicle.

A glance at the label will warn you of any hazards that might require special precautions. The sample label below has two hazard pictograms that tell you that users of the product could face *Health Hazards* and a *Flame* hazard. Hazard statements on the label tell you specifically what those hazards are, and a list of precautionary statements tells you what you need to do to avoid those hazards. Everything you need to know to use the product—should you wear gloves, how should you store it, first aid procedures—is in that list on the label. Most importantly, the information is stated the same way for all products.

**SAMPLE LABEL**

<p><b>CODE</b> _____ <b>Product Name</b> _____</p> <p><b>Company Name</b> _____ Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____ Emergency Phone Number _____</p>	}	<p><b>Product Identifier</b></p> <p><b>Supplier Identification</b></p>	<p><b>Hazard Pictograms</b></p>  <p><b>Signal Word</b> <b>Danger</b></p>
<p>Keep container tightly closed. Store in a 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 measures 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.</p> <p><b>In Case of Fire:</b> use dry chemical (BC) or Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) fire extinguisher to extinguish.</p> <p><b>First Aid</b> If exposed call Poison Center. If on skin (or hair): Take off immediately any contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water.</p>	}	<p><b>Precautionary Statements</b></p>	<p><b>Hazard Statements</b></p> <p><b>Supplemental Information</b></p> <p><b>Directions for Use</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Fill weight: _____ Lot Number: _____ Gross weight: _____ Fill Date: _____ Expiration Date: _____</p>

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