

Fact-sheet - How to label the chemical products?



What is the objective?

The objectives of the label are to:

- **Allow** a clear and immediate identification of the chemical and its hazards;
- **Determine** the actions to be taken in case of accident or emergency.

The factory should request and try to select only chemical suppliers able to provide the GHS standardized label¹ or the factory should take the initiative to adopt a standardized label to tag the chemicals on-site. The advantage is to harmonize the content and format of the label so it is easier to find and understand the information whatever is the chemical.



How to achieve this objective?

Step 1: Make sure it is written in your chemical purchase policy that the chemical supplier must provide the label with relevant information for each chemical supplied. The format of the label as per GHS should be:



*See, in the next page, the GHS hazard pictograms.

Step 2: Control if the label is available with all relevant information or not when a new chemical order is received.

Step 3: Translate the label in local language: product name, signal word, hazard statements and precautionary statements.

Step 4: Make sure the label in local language is visible and clearly readable for every chemical stored on-site.

Step 5: Train the employees to explain them how to read and how to understand the information on the label.



- **Appoint a manager** to control: original label received, label translated in local language and affixed on each product;
- **Develop a template for the local language label:** it is easier for the employees to refer to the same format.

¹ The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is a system developed by the United Nations for standardizing and harmonizing the classification and labelling of chemicals globally. See [GHS information website](#)

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Common non-compliances**Hazard pictograms not up-to-date**

In the picture on the right, the original label is showing the GHS hazard pictogram for “corrosive” but the factory has affixed a local language label with another hazard symbol corresponding to the older system for hazard identification (EU hazard symbols not to be used anymore since 2009).

See below the GHS hazard pictograms/symbols.

Original label not corresponding to the content of the container

When the chemical containers are sent back to the chemical manufacturer and re-used, it can happen that the original label might not be removed whereas the container is refilled with a different chemical. This leads to labeling problems and to potential hazards.

Additional information**GHS hazard pictograms:**

(Source: <http://www.reach-compliance.ch/ghsclp/ghspictograms/index.html>)



[GHS01](#)
Danger / Unstable, Explosive



[GHS02](#)
Danger or Warning / Flammable



[GHS03](#)
Danger or Warning/ Oxidising



[GHS04](#)
Warning / Compressed gas



[GHS05](#)
Danger or Warning / Corrosive cat. 1



[GHS06](#)
Danger / Toxic cat. 1 - 3



[GHS07](#) Warning
Toxic cat. 4 / Irritant cat. 2 or 3
Lower systemic health hazards



[GHS08](#)
Danger or Warning
Systemic health hazards



[GHS09](#)
Warning (for cat. 1)
(for cat. 2 no signal word) /Environment