

How to properly label a cleaning product container



When cleaning products are transferred to a new container, it is an OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) requirement that the container be labeled.

Labels help the user identify:

- ◆ the chemicals inside the containers, and
- ◆ the hazards associated with using the product.

This information helps protect the person using the product.

A Hazardous Materials Identification System (HMIS) label can be used to satisfy this OSHA rule. These labels use pictograms, hazard statements, and the signal words “Danger” and “Warning” to communicate hazard information on product labels.

Blank HMIS labels can be purchased online. Here is an example:

To find the information you need to label your containers, look at the product’s :

- ◆ Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and
- ◆ label;
- ◆ or call the product manufacturer.

To fill out the HMIS label:

- 1 Clearly print the product name under “Product Identifier” in the white space.
- 2 Check either the **Warning** or **Danger** signal word box. **Danger** indicates the product is more hazardous.
- 3 Insert a number (found on the SDS) between 0 and 4 in the blue health hazard box. This number represents the type of health hazard you may be exposed to when using the product. There may be additional boxes to check if the hazard involves chronic health risks (health problems that develop over time when you are exposed to the product; for example, asthma). These health hazards are indicated by pictograms. For an explanation of the pictograms, see *Hazard Communication Standard: Labels and Pictograms – Brief* online at: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3636.pdf>

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| <p>PRODUCT IDENTIFIER</p> <p>Danger: <input type="checkbox"/> Warning: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Reference SDS:</p> <p>SEE SAFETY DATA SHEET ICC COMPLIANCE CENTER • www.thecompliancecenter.com</p> | <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white;">HEALTH HAZARD</td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FF0000; color: white;">PHYSICAL HAZARD</td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td colspan="5"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FFA500; color: white;">PHYSICAL HAZARD</td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #000000; color: white;">TARGET ORGAN EFFECTS</td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white;">ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD</td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td colspan="5" style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white;">PERSONAL PROTECTION</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="8" style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; text-align: center;">PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> | HEALTH HAZARD | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | PHYSICAL HAZARD | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | PHYSICAL HAZARD | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | TARGET ORGAN EFFECTS | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD | | <input type="checkbox"/> | PERSONAL PROTECTION | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT | | | | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Using the HMIS label on all containers in your facility will help you to meet OSHA’s Hazard Communication Standard.

- 4 Insert a number between 0 and 4 in the red flammability box. 0 denotes that the material will not burn, 3 that the material is capable of ignition, and 4 that the material may ignite if mixed with air. You may find the HMIS numbers for the hazard boxes on the label or on the SDS, or you may have to contact your distributor or the product manufacturer.
- 5 Insert a number between 0 and 4 in the physical hazard label box, noting that material is stable and safe at 0, may react violently with water at 2, and is capable of exploding at 4.

- 6 Check the white box that says **Personal Protection** if the SDS says that **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** should be worn when using the product. Check which types of PPE should be worn in the white **Personal Protective Equipment** box. Sometimes the required PPE are indicated by a letter. Letters A through K are standardized (see chart below), and represent different combinations of safety goggles, gloves, aprons, face shields, respirators, and chemical full body suits.

Remember, safer products require the least protection! If you are using a product that requires the use of multiple pieces of personal protective equipment, look for a safer product!

Hazardous Materials Identification System

| HAZARD INDEX | | PERSONAL PROTECTION INDEX | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| 4 = SEVERE HAZARD | An asterisk (*) or other designation corresponds to additional information on a data sheet or separate chronic effects notification | A | Safety Goggles | | |
| 3 = SERIOUS HAZARD | | B | Safety Goggles + Gloves | | |
| 2 = MODERATE HAZARD | | C | Safety Goggles + Gloves + Apron | | |
| 1 = SLIGHT HAZARD | | D | Safety Goggles + Gloves + Apron + Face Shield | | |
| 0 = MINIMAL HAZARD | | E | Safety Goggles + Gloves + Apron + Respirator | | |
| Additional Information | | F | Safety Goggles + Gloves + Apron + Face Shield + Respirator | | |
| PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT | | G | Safety Goggles + Gloves + Respirator | | |
| A | n | o | p | H | Safety Goggles + Gloves + Apron + Face Shield + Respirator + Full Body Suit |
| q | r | s | t | I | Safety Goggles + Gloves + Respirator + Full Body Suit |
| u | w | y | z | J | Safety Goggles + Gloves + Apron + Face Shield + Respirator + Full Body Suit |
| | | | | K | Safety Goggles + Gloves + Apron + Face Shield + Respirator + Full Body Suit + Additional Protection |
| | | | | X | Consult your supervisor or S.O.P. for "SPECIAL" handling directions |

RESOURCES

OSHA, Hazard Communication Standard: Labels and Pictograms – Brief. <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3636.pdf>