

IDENTIFYING HAZARD PICTOGRAMS ON CHEMICAL LABELS

The ability to quickly recognize OSHA-required pictograms and hazard warnings on chemical labels is essential to a safe worksite.

The following pictograms will always appear in black on a white background framed within a diamond-shaped box with a red border.

HEALTH HAZARD

The chemical presents one or more of the following health hazards:

- Carcinogen (may cause cancer)
- Respiratory sensitizer (may cause respiratory irritation)
- Reproductive toxicity (may damage fertility or cause harm to an unborn child)
- Target organ toxicity (may damage organs)
- Mutagenicity (may cause genetic defects)
- Aspiration toxicity (may be fatal if swallowed or inhaled)



FLAME

The chemical may be:

- Flammable (can catch fire easily)
- Self-reactive (can get hot and react alone without air and may burn or explode)
- Pyrophoric (will ignite after contact with air)
- Self-heating (can get hot by itself without heat being applied)
- An emitter of flammable gas
- An organic peroxide (can burn or explode when heated and is sensitive to friction)



EXCLAMATION MARK

The chemical may:

- Be an irritant or skin sensitizer
- Cause acute toxicity, narcotic effects, or respiratory tract irritation



FLAME-OVER-CIRCLE

Appears on chemicals that are oxidizers. Oxidizers increase the concentration of oxygen in the air, which increases the risk of fire.



GAS CYLINDER

Used when the hazard presented is gas under pressure. Gases under pressure can explode if mishandled or exposed to heat.



SKULL AND CROSSBONES

The substance is poisonous. A single dose may be toxic or fatal if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed by the skin.



EXPLODING BOMB

The substance is explosive or self-reactive.



ENVIRONMENT

Substance is potentially toxic to aquatic life.



CORROSION

The substance can cause skin burns or eye damage. Corrosive substances can also destroy metal.



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