

## Hazard Communication

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Hazard Communication, also referred to as “HAZCOM” and “The Employee Right-To-Know Act” was developed to ensure that employers provide employees with important safety information for chemicals used in their workplace.

The goal of HAZCOM is to reduce the risk of chemical-related occupational illnesses and injury. This is accomplished by making specific information available to help identify and evaluate hazardous chemicals in the workplace. Tools such as Container Labeling and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) assist employers in identifying and communicating these hazards.

**Safety Data Sheets (SDS):** An SDS is developed by the chemical manufacturer to communicate on the hazards associated with a particular chemical. The SDS also provides guidance on how you can protect yourself from these hazards and emergency information/procedures in the event of an accident.

An SDS must be available for every chemical used in the workplace, and should be available in your shop. Additionally, many SDS’s are available online or may be obtained by EHS. If you have difficulty locating an SDS, contact EHS x3333.










**Container Labels:** Every product container is required to have a label that lists all of the hazard information for the chemical it contains. Labels must include the identity of the product, appropriate hazard warnings, the identity of the manufacturer, relevant first aid information and the chemical ingredients.

If you put chemicals into separate containers, such as spray bottles, label the container with all of the required information such as chemical’s name and hazard warnings.

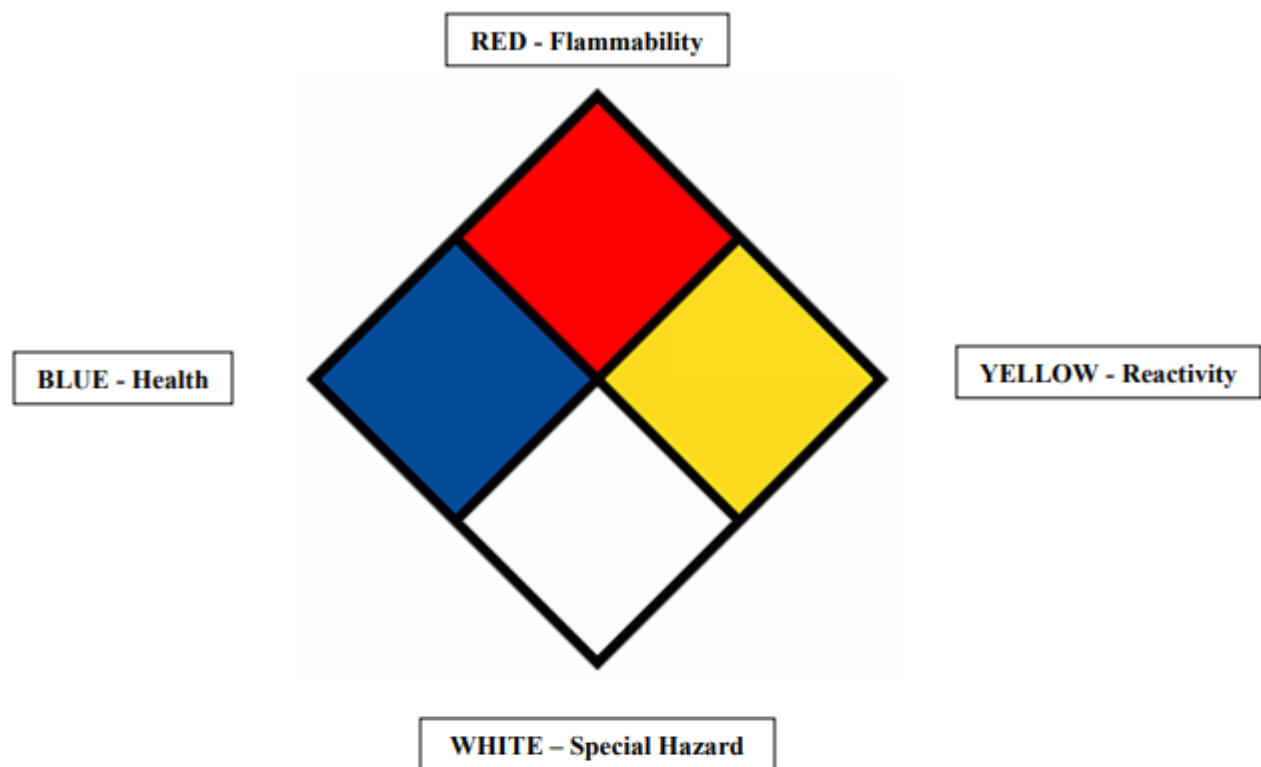
### Safe Work Practices:

- Know where your work area’s MSDS binder is located or how to access online information.
- Familiarize yourself with chemical hazards in your workplace.
- Remember, an MSDS must be available for every chemical used in the workplace.
- Every container used to store a chemical must be labeled.
- Read the label and MSDS prior to using the chemical.
- Avoid contact with skin and eyes by utilizing the proper personal protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, etc.).
- Store each chemical in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
- DO NOT dispose of excess or waste in a drain or trash can.
- Unless directed by the manufacturer, cleaning agents should never be mixed with one another.
- When portioning chemicals into separate containers such as generic spray bottles, employees must label these containers with the chemical’s name and a hazard warning briefly describing the hazardous effects of the chemical. This includes terms such as “flammable” and “causes lung damage.”

**Hazard Symbols (Pictograms):** Chemical manufacturers have started using the symbols below to help identify the hazards associated with a product. These are featured on both the labels and the SDS. You should be familiar with these symbols.

 <p>Flammable if exposed to ignition sources, sparks, or heat. Some substances may give off flammable gases.</p>	 <p>Oxidizers - Can burn without air, or can intensify fire in combustible materials</p>	 <p>Irritant – May cause irritation (redness, rash) or less serious toxic reactions.</p>
 <p>Corrosives – May cause skin burns and permanent eye damage</p>	 <p>May cause serious and prolonged health effects, regardless of exposure time</p>	 <p>Gases Under Pressure Gas released may be very cold. Gas container may explode if heated.</p>
 <p>Toxic material which may cause life threatening effects even in small amounts and with short exposure time</p>	 <p>Explosives – May explode if exposed to fire, heat, shock or friction</p>	 <p>Toxic to aquatic organisms and may cause long lasting effects in the environment</p>

**Hazard Identification Systems:** The NFPA diamond hazard identification system may be used on containers to convey hazards. This system rates the flammability, health and reactivity hazards of a material from 0-4, with 4 being the highest. Described below is a summary of the ratings.



**Flammability hazard rating - RED Diamond**

0 Minimal Hazard	Materials that are normally stable and will not burn unless heated
1 Slight Hazard	Materials that must be preheated before ignition will occur. Flammable liquids in this category will have flash points (the lowest temperature at which ignition will occur) at or above 220 F.
2 Moderate Hazard	Materials that must be moderately heated before ignition will occur. Including flammable liquids with flash points at or above 100 F and below 200 F.
3 Serious Hazard	Materials capable of ignition under normal temperature conditions, including flammable liquids with flash points below 73 F and boiling points above 100 F as well as liquids with flash points between 73 F and 100 F.
4 Severe Hazard	Very flammable gases or very volatile flammable liquids with flash points below 73 F and boiling points below 100 F.