
Chemical Container Labeling

Standard Operating Procedure

Revision Date 3/28/2022



Potential Safety, Regulatory, and Financial Risk

Unknown Hazard(s) – Safety incidents are much more likely to occur if persons working with a hazardous chemical are not aware of the container contents and associated hazards.

Regulatory Concern – Safety regulations require hazardous chemical containers to be labeled.

Excessive Disposal Cost – Chemical containers with “unknown” contents are costly to dispose because the waste material requires some level of analysis prior to disposal.

Safe Work Practices

Original Manufacturer Container Labels

- Maintain original manufacturer labels on hazardous chemical containers. Original manufacturer container labels include the original chemical product name, hazard warnings, and manufacturer contact information.
- Avoid removing or defacing original manufacturer labels unless the contents of the container change

Secondary Container Labels

- Label secondary containers with the chemical product name and primary hazard(s). A secondary container is one to which a chemical product is transferred from the original manufacturer’s container.

Waste Container Labels

(Reference the ISU Hazardous Waste Management Plan for further details)

- Label all chemical waste containers as “waste”.
- Label chemicals meeting the RCRA definition of hazardous as “hazardous waste”.
- Obtain waste labels from the Environmental Health and Safety Department as needed.
- Ensure waste containers are labeled with the chemical product name and primary hazard(s) similar to other chemical containers.

References

- 29 CFR 1910.1450 (OSHA's "Occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals in laboratories" regulations)
- 29 CFR 1910.1450 Appendix A (National Research Council Recommendations Concerning Chemical Hygiene in Laboratories)
- ISU Chemical Hygiene Plan (https://www.isu.edu/media/libraries/research/ehs/plan-documents/chemical-hygiene-plan/ISU-CHP_ML_2-2021.pdf).
- ISU Hazardous Waste Management Plan (<https://www.isu.edu/media/libraries/research/ehs/plan-documents/hazardous-waste-management-plan/ENV-HW-Hazardous-Waste-Management-Plan.pdf>).