HazCom/GHS Label Reading Guide

SHIELD CERTIFICATES
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A quick reference for reading and understanding GHS chemical labels. Not a substitute for formal HazCom training or your workplace's written hazard communication program — post this alongside certified instruction.

Date: _____ **Operator:** _____

The 6 Required Label Elements

- ☐ Product identifier — matches the chemical name on the Safety Data Sheet
- ☐ Signal word — "Danger" (more severe) or "Warning" (less severe), only one per label
- ☐ Pictogram(s) — red-bordered diamond with a black hazard symbol
- ☐ Hazard statement — describes the specific nature of the hazard
- ☐ Precautionary statement — what to do to avoid or respond to the hazard
- ☐ Supplier information — manufacturer or responsible party's name, address, and phone number

Before Using Any Chemical

- ☐ Read the product identifier and confirm it matches what you intend to use
- ☐ Check the signal word to gauge overall severity
- ☐ Identify the pictogram(s) and know what hazard each one represents
- ☐ Read the hazard statement completely — do not assume based on the pictogram alone
- ☐ Follow the precautionary statement for handling, storage, and required PPE

If a Label Is Missing or Damaged

- ☐ Do not use the chemical until it is properly labeled
- ☐ Report the missing or damaged label to a supervisor immediately
- ☐ Do not rely on memory or assumption about what the container holds

When in Doubt

- ☐ Consult the full Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for complete hazard and handling information
- ☐ Ask a supervisor or your HazCom program administrator before proceeding

This checklist is a quick reference and does not replace formal OSHA training or your workplace's written hazard communication program. © Shield Certificates — shieldcerts.com