BIG Changes on Chemical Labeling

OSHA has updated its requirements on labeling of hazardous chemicals to include more specific information. As of June 1, 2015, all labels must include pictograms, a signal word, hazard and precautionary statements, the product identifier, and supplier identification.

SAMPLE LABEL
(www.weberpackaging.com)

1. Product Identifier: Product’s name matching what listed on the (Material) Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
2. Signal Word: Use either “Danger” (severe) or “Warning” (less severe).
3. Hazard Statements: A phrase describing the nature of product’s hazards.
4. Precautionary Statements: Recommended measures to minimize or prevent adverse effects.
5. Supplier Identification: Name, address, and telephone number of manufacturer or supplier.
6. Pictograms: Graphical symbols designed to visually convey specific information.
Hazard Communication Pictograms

The OSHA’s updated labeling system is based on recommendations from the United Nation’s *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS). Among other benefits, the revised system will improve safety for workers and the public through consistent and simplified communications on chemical hazards and safe practices.

All chemical labels must include specific hazard pictograms, signal words, written instructions, etc. The nine pictograms are listed below. Since OSHA does not have jurisdiction over environmental compliance, the environmental pictogram is optional.

- **Exploding Bomb (GHS01)**
  Unstable and explosive substances.

- **Flame (GHS02)**
  Flammable substance, can be easily ignited and burn vigorously.

- **Flame Over Circle (GHS03)**
  Oxidizing substance, provides fuel for flammable chemicals.

- **Gas Cylinder (GHS04)**
  Compressed gas, content under pressure.

- **Corrosion (GHS05)**
  Corrosive substance, can cause severe damages upon contact.

- **Skull and Crossbones (GHS06)**
  Toxic substance, can potentially harm or kill.

- **Exclamation Mark (GHS07)**
  Toxic and Irritant. Lower systemic health hazards.

- **Health Hazard (GHS08)**
  Systemic Health Hazard, can kill or cause severe health hazards.

- **Environment (GHS09)**
  Environmental Hazard, can damage the environment if not properly disposed.