

## New labels for hazardous products

*Manufacturers have to apply a label specifying the hazards of the product in question to every chemical product available in the shops. This also applies to the outer packaging of products. For all hazardous substances a new classification and labelling was put in place in January 2009. The new method is called GHS, or Globally Harmonised System. Objective? Introduce a uniform system for all countries.*

### Why a new labelling system?

Throughout the years many countries have set out rules which determine which information a label has to contain. And that was the motivation to set up this new international unambiguous system: due to the difference in definitions for hazardous products, a certain chemical could be hazardous in one country and not in the next. The agreements about when and how hazardous properties had to be communicated were different in all countries.

The introduction of a globally harmonised system, GHS, should get rid of these obstacles and make sure that a certain hazardous substance (or hazardous mixture) is classified, packaged and marked in the same way around the globe. The advantage? If, for example, you have an accident with a certain product in China, the emergency services and the poison advice centre can immediately tell you what to do without first deciphering the foreign information.

### Transition period










The existing pictograms will obviously not just disappear. The deadline is set on 1 December 2010. During this adjustment period you may find 2 different labels on one product.


### Differences?


For users of these substances the most striking differences on the new labels will be:

- The orange square pictograms are replaced by diamond-shaped pictograms with a red edge
- There are 2 new pictograms: one for "holder under pressure" (image of a gas cylinder) and one for "health hazard" (image of a radiating chest)
- The Saint Andrew's cross (for hazardous and irritating) is replaced by an exclamation mark
- New warnings are introduced (called signal words): "danger" and "warning". The word "danger" is mentioned on hazardous chemical products
- New type sentences, H sentences (HAZARD) and P sentences (PRECAUTIONS) replace the traditional R and S sentences. They do not only give advice about the hazards (such as the former R and S sentences), but also advice about the conservation, handling and removing of the chemical products

## Pictograms

<p><b>GHS01</b> <b>EXPLOSIVE</b></p> 	<p><b>GHS02</b> <b>INFLAMMABLE</b></p> 	<p><b>GHS03</b> <b>OXIDISING</b></p> 
<p><b>GHS04</b> <b>GASES UNDER PRESSURE</b></p> 	<p><b>GHS05</b> <b>CORROSIVE</b></p> 	<p><b>GHS06</b> <b>POISONOUS</b></p> 
<p><b>GHS07</b> <b>IRRITATING</b> <b>SENSITISING</b> <b>NOXIOUS</b></p> 	<p><b>GHS08</b> <b>LONG-TERM</b> <b>HEALTH HAZARD</b></p> 	<p><b>GHS09</b> <b>HAZARDOUS TO THE</b> <b>AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT</b></p> 

 Old pictograms

 New pictograms + number + text

**Note. This is a reproduction of the existing and new pictograms. This does not imply that the existing classification of chemical substances and mixtures can be immediately converted on the basis of just the symbol. This requires a content-specific assessment on the basis of the criteria in appendix I of CLP(GHS).**

## GHS labelling

The new GHS label contains the following information:

- one or more pictograms (also called hazard symbols)
- a signal word: "danger" or "warning", depending on the substance's hazard category
- one or more hazard indications (H sentences, Hazard), which replace the current S sentences (S for Safety) and contain safety instructions about handling the substance