

Risk Control Bulletin

Hazard Communication-Chemical Labeling

RISK CONTROL



This section of the HazCom Standard requires that all chemicals in the workplace be labeled. The information which must be present includes the name of the chemical and warnings about any hazards the material may present. This requirement may be implemented in a variety of ways. Two such systems are the NFPA Hazard Identification System and the Hazardous Materials Identification Guide.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Diamonds:

Each diamond represents a different hazard.

Blue = Health Hazard

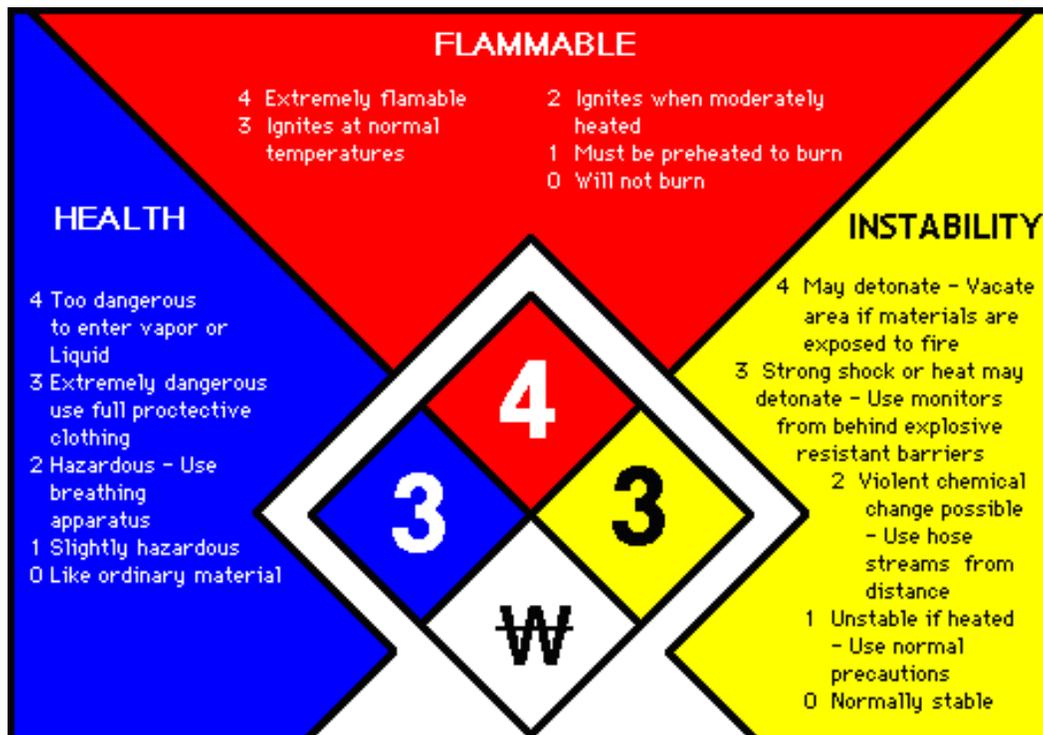
Red = Flammability

Yellow = Instability

White = Special Hazard Information

A numerical rating will also be provided in the blue, red, and yellow diamonds. This number indicates the severity of the hazard, with a 0 indicating no hazard and 4 indicating the most severe hazard.

These placards indicate the type of hazard that is present, but they do not provide specific chemical names or quantities. They are designed to give personnel a general idea of the potential hazards present.



HMLS Labels



The HMLS labeling system operates on the same principle as the NFPA diamond. **Blue indicates health hazard**, **red indicates flammability**, **yellow indicates instability**, and special information (such as what personal protective equipment to wear) will be provided in the white section. It also uses a numerical system from 0-4 to indicate the severity of the hazard.

These labels should be used on individual containers of hazardous materials (i.e. barrels, bottles, cans, buckets, tubs, etc.) so that there are no unlabeled containers in the work area. It is recommended that they be used on all containers, even if the manufacturer's label is still in place; however, this is just a recommendation.

Always regard unlabeled containers as dangerous!

If a substance is transferred from its original container into a portable container which is not labeled, the portable container must be labeled with an HMLS label to identify the contents of the container. All unattended containers must be labeled.

Key To HMLS Label Numerical Ratings

HEALTH

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 | Deadly: even the slightest exposure to this substance would be life threatening. Only specialized protective clothing, for these materials, should be worn. |
| 3 | Extreme Danger: serious injury would result from exposure to this substance. Do not expose any body surface to these materials. Full protective measures should be taken. |
| 2 | Dangerous: exposure to this substance would be hazardous to health. Protective measures are indicated. |
| 1 | Slight Hazard: irritation or minor injury would result from exposure to this substance. Protective measures are indicated. |
| 0 | No Hazard: exposure to this substance offers no significant risk to health. |

FLAMMABILITY

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| 4 | Flash Point Below 73°F and Boiling Point Below 100°F: this substance is very flammable, volatile or explosive depending on its state. Extreme caution should be used in handling or storing these materials. |
| 3 | Flash Point Below 100°F: flammable, volatile or explosive under almost all normal temperature conditions. Exercise great caution in storage or handling of these materials. |
| 2 | Flash Point Below 200°F: moderately heated conditions may ignite this substance. Caution procedures should be employed in handling. |
| 1 | Flash Point Above 200°F: this substance must be preheated to ignite. Most combustible solids would be in this category. |
| 0 | Will Not Burn: substances that will not burn. |

INSTABILITY

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| 4 | May Detonate: substances that are readily capable of detonation or explosion at normal temperatures and pressures. Evacuate area if exposed to heat or fire. |
| 3 | Explosive: substances that are readily capable of detonation or explosion by a strong initiating source, such as heat, shock or water. Monitor from behind explosion-resistant barriers. |
| 2 | Unstable: violent chemical changes are possible at normal or elevated temperatures and pressures. Potentially violent or explosive reaction may occur when mixed with water. Monitor from a safe distance. |
| 1 | Normally stable: substances that may become unstable at elevated temperatures and pressures or when mixed with water. Approach with caution. |
| 0 | Stable: substances which will remain stable when exposed to heat, pressure or water. |