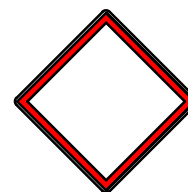




NEW CHEMICAL HAZARD SIGNS

Chemical Hazard Signs



In the coming years the orange or yellow triangular signs (i.e. hazard signs) will no longer be used to warn against chemical hazards. They will be replaced by the 'Globally Harmonized System' (GHS) of labels. The new signs will take the form of a diamond-shape with a black symbol on a white background and a red border. This system has the aim of ensuring that, for example, the term 'corrosive substances' means the same everywhere in the world.

Some background information about the need for the GHS system

GHS is a system that defines and classifies the hazards of chemical products. Through it health and safety information is communicated on labels and material safety data sheets (called Safety Data Sheets, or SDSs in GHS). The aim of all this is to have a set of rules, a format and content for labels and safety data sheets (SDS) that will be used throughout the world. This system was developed by an international team of hazard communication experts.

At the moment many different countries use different systems for classification and labelling of chemical products. In some cases different systems exist in the same country. This proved to be expensive for governments to regulate and enforce and costly for companies who have to abide by the different systems imposed. It has also been confusing for workers since they have to understand the hazards involved in order to be safe at work.

The GHS system is designed to cover all hazardous chemicals. It can be adopted to cover chemicals that are dealt with in workplaces, transport, consumer products, pesticides and pharmaceuticals. It is of interest to various parties such as workers, transport workers and emergency responders.

In the coming pages one will find the nine signs used in the GHS system.

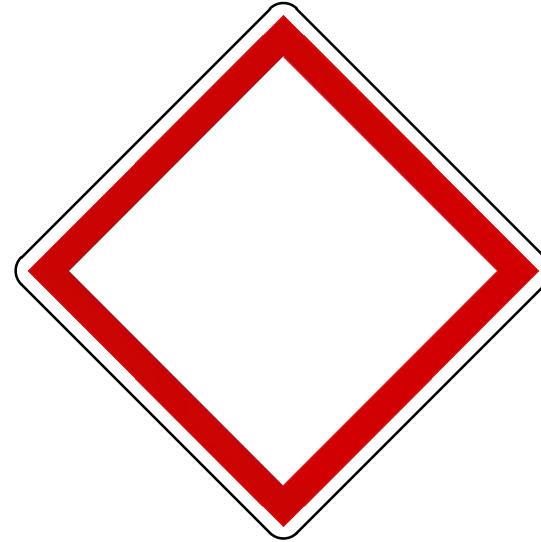
GRAPHIC SIGNS:-

GLOBALY HARMONIZED SYSTEM

Hazard Pictograms

Properties

- Red diamond frame.
- The symbol should be black and placed on a white background.



Aspiration hazard



Irritant



Aquatic environment hazard

GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM



Toxic



Flammable liquids



Compressed gases



Corrosive



Oxidizing liquids



Explosive

GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM

References/Bibliography:

- Chemical Substances. (2012, November 5). *Department of Physics, Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge*. Retrieved March 28, 2013, from <http://www.phy.cam.ac.uk/hands/hazards/chemicals.php>.
- Globally Harmonized System (GHS). (2013, February 19). *Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety*. Retrieved March 29, 2013, from http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/ghs.html#_1_1.
- A Guide to The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). (n.d.). *U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration*. Retrieved March 29, 2013, from <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html>.