Chemical Labels are Changing!
Why This is Important for You to Know

While you may think it is only important for you to know about chemical labels in the workplace, many household products have similar labels. It is important that we all know how to interpret them.

Why are chemical labels changing?

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) has recently been updated to incorporate the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

Many countries already have chemical hazard classification and labeling systems in place.

These systems may be similar in content and approach, but their differences are significant enough to require multiple classifications, labels and safety data sheets (SDS) for the same product when marketed in the same country or when parts of the life cycle are covered by different regulatory authorities. For example, a product may be considered flammable or toxic by one agency or country, but not by another. These differences in hazards and SDS/labels impact both protection and trade. In the area of protection, users may see different label warnings or safety data sheet information for the same chemical. In the area of trade, the need to comply with multiple regulations regarding hazard classification and labeling is costly and time-consuming.

What do we need to know?

Purdue employees must be trained by December 1, 2013 to be familiar with changes to label elements and safety data sheet format the GHS has brought about. Your department should provide you training in the changes.

When will we see changes to labels?

Manufacturers and distributors have until June 1, 2015 to implement the changes on their products. Until then you will likely see a combination of old and new labels.

GHS Pictograms

A GHS compliant chemical label has 6 elements; pictogram, signal word, hazard statement, precautionary statements, product identifier and supplier identification. Understanding the meaning of label pictograms is particularly important as labels and SDS will not always include pictogram meaning. See page 3 for the new GHS pictograms. Take a few minutes to review the pictograms and related meanings.
**DLR Emergency Assembly Area (EAA) Location**

The DLR building was evacuated on October 1. Although this particular incident was due to a false alarm triggered by the adjacent construction, the evacuation demonstrated that many building occupants were uncertain of the EAA location. When evacuating DLR, proceed in an orderly fashion out the nearest exit and gather on the north side of the building, near the police station (normal EAA). **During construction, gather on the west side of the building in the parking lot located off of Gates Road (Temp EAA).** Remain at the EAA until the “All Clear” signal is given by the emergency responders.

**Pedestrian Safety**

Construction on the grounds of the DLR building will continue through next spring. It is very dangerous to walk, bike or drive near the building. Many sidewalks are closed making it difficult to navigate around the DLR and surrounding buildings. Make sure you look both ways, multiple times before entering a roadway or a cross walk. It would be advantageous to make sure that drivers know you are there by making eye contact with them. **Don’t assume that they see you and will stop for you!** Many drivers are disregarding stop signs because the placement of construction fencing and machinery make them harder to see.

**Odors in the Building**

Along with the construction, you could experience air handling problems from exhaust fumes and other substances getting into the ventilation system. If you smell something that is not a normal smell and is offensive, it may cause you headaches, nausea and other symptoms. Please report those instances to Eric Ridgley as soon as possible and he will contact the proper office to resolve the issue.

**Why all the construction?**

The new landscaping will greatly improve the look of our building. If you don’t already know, there is a model of the finished landscaping for the north side of the DLR in the vestibule at that entrance to the building. This project was designed and planned by an EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) class and is called the VOSS (Visiting Our Solar System) project. For more information on the project, go to: [http://epics.ecn.purdue.edu/VOSS/](http://epics.ecn.purdue.edu/VOSS/).

Drawings of the landscaping at the south end of the building were previously sent to DLR occupants via email and are posted on the mail room bulletin board on the first floor.

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**For specific DLR building problems and concerns contact:**

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He can help or point you in the right direction.
The DLRC Safety Committee welcomes your ideas for future issues of the DSS. Contact us by email: learningcenter@purdue.edu. This newsletter is published quarterly.