

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

© SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 No. 9 Vol. 21 Week of 3/6/00

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

CHEMICAL LABELS

OSHA's Hazard Communication Standards (1926.59 for construction and 1910.1200 for general industry) require that all hazardous chemicals be labeled properly. Seeing the label should be like seeing a newspaper headline that says "Hazardous Chemical Inside". If you need to use that chemical, make sure that you read the rest of the story by studying the label and the material safety data sheet.

The label gives you the following information:

- the **Identity** of the chemical;
- the **Manufacturer's** name and address;
- the **Flammability** hazards;
- the **Health** hazards;
- the **Reactivity** hazards; and
- the **Personal Protective Equipment** requirements.

There are two different label systems that are commonly used today. One is the **NFPA Diamond** system and the other is the **Color Bar** system. Both systems use colors and numbers to describe the types and severities of the hazards presented by chemicals. The following colors indicate the same hazards in both systems: Red indicates Flammability; Blue indicates Health; and Yellow indicates Reactivity. Each colored region should also have a number written in it. The numbers zero (0) to four (4) describe the severity of the hazard. Zero means a minimal hazard and four means a severe hazard. For example, if you see a red region with a four in it, you know that the chemical poses a severe flammability hazard.

The information provided in the white region differs between the two systems. In the NFPA Diamond system the white region may contain another symbol or number. This symbol identifies a specific hazard such as radioactivity or corrosiveness. The information in the white region in the Color Bar system describes the types of PPE needed when working with the chemical.

Remember that the labels themselves will not protect you. Read the labels and the appropriate material safety data sheets so that you have all the information that you need to use chemicals safely.

SAFETY REMINDER

**Labels are like blueprints —
read them and then follow their instructions.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.