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National Farm Safety
& Health Week
September 20-26, 2015

Simplified, Harmonized Hazard Communication Standard Now in Effect

Every year since 1944, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the proclamation, the third week of September has been dedicated to National Farm Safety & Health Week. This recognition week is designed to educate farmers and help prevent injuries that occur on the farm. Oregon Farm Bureau presents a series on how to employ smart farm practices and avoid preventable injuries. Together, along with the National Safety Council and organizations all over the country, we can minimize the risk of farming accidents and keep everyone safe.

If you work with agricultural chemicals or other potentially dangerous materials, including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, diesel fuel and/or disinfectant products, you should understand the new label requirements and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) format. As of June 1 of this year, all chemical manufacturers are required to use a new labeling and the SDS format established under Globally Harmonized System (GHS) criteria for classifying the health and physical hazards of the chemicals they produce.¹

By June 1, 2016, employers must update workplace labeling and hazard communication programs, providing ongoing employee training for newly identified physical or health hazards.¹

Here are some things you should know about the new labels and SDSs:

Hazard definitions are now more specific, ensuring consistency across the board. There are more specific criteria for classification of health and physical hazards and for the classification of mixtures.

Labels now need to include six standard elements for classified hazards: product identifier, manufacturer contact information, hazard pictograms, signal word (DANGER or WARNING), hazard statements and precautionary statements.

The **SDS format**, formerly the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), is now the key Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). The information required on the SDS is essentially the same as the former MSDS; however, it will now be required to be organized in a specific 16-section format.

- Sections 1 – 8 of the SDS contain general information about the chemical identification, hazards, composition, safe handling practices and emergency control measures.
- Sections 9 – 16 contain other technical and scientific information, including the date of preparation or last revision.

Here is a sample SDS in the 16-section format for [AATREX® 4L](#) from Syngenta®.

Safety Data Sheet **syngenta®**

AATREX® 4L

Date: 3/27/2015
Replaces: 2/27/2015

1. PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Product identifier on label: **AATREX® 4L**
 Product No.: A8566A
 Use: Herbicide
 Manufacturer: Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC
 Post Office Box 18300
 Greensboro NC 27419
 Manufacturer Phone: 1-800-334-9481
 Emergency Phone: **1-800-888-8372**

2. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

Classifications: Specific Target Organ Toxicity: Repeated Category 2
 Signal Word (OSHA): Warning
 Hazard Statements: May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure

Hazard Symbols:

Precautionary Statements: Do not breathe mist, vapors, spray.
 Get medical advice if you feel unwell.
 Dispose of contents and container in accordance with local regulations.

Other Hazard Statements: None

3. COMPOSITION INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Chemical Name	Common Name	CAS Number	Concentration
Ethylene Glycol	Ethylene Glycol	107-21-1	Trade Secret
Other Ingredients	Other Ingredients	Trade Secret	>57.4%
2-chloro-4-ethylamino-6-isopropylamino-s-triazine	Atrazine	1912-24-9	42.6%

Ingredients not precisely identified are proprietary or non-hazardous. Values are not product specifications.

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4. FIRST AID MEASURES

Have the product container, label or Safety Data Sheet with you when calling Syngenta (800-888-8372), a poison control center or doctor, or going for treatment.

Ingestion: If swallowed: Call Syngenta (800-888-8372), a poison control center or doctor immediately for treatment advice. Do not give any liquid to the person. Do not induce vomiting unless told to do so after calling 800-888-8372 or by a poison control center or doctor. Do not give anything by mouth to an unconscious person.

Eye Contact: If in eyes: Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present, after 5 minutes, then continue rinsing eye. Call Syngenta (800-888-8372), a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.

Skin Contact: If on skin or clothing: Take off contaminated clothing. Rinse skin immediately with plenty of water for 15-20 minutes. Call Syngenta (800-888-8372), a poison control center or doctor for treatment advice.

Inhalation: If inhaled: Move person to fresh air. If person is not breathing, call 911 or an ambulance, then give artificial respiration, preferably mouth-to-mouth if possible. Call Syngenta (800-888-8372), a poison control center or doctor for further treatment advice.

Most important symptoms/effects:
Not Applicable

Indication of immediate medical attention and special treatment needed:
There is no specific antidote if this product is ingested.
Treat symptomatically.

5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

Subtle (and unsuitable) extinguishing media:
Use dry chemical, foam or CO2 extinguishing media. If water is used to fight fire, dike and collect runoff.

Specific Hazards:
During a fire, irritating and possibly toxic gases may be generated by thermal decomposition or combustion.

Special protective equipment and precautions for firefighters:
Wear full protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus. Evacuate nonessential personnel from the area to prevent human exposure to fire, smoke, fumes or products of combustion.

6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Personal precautions, protective equipment, and emergency procedures:
Follow exposure control/personal protection outlined in Section 8.

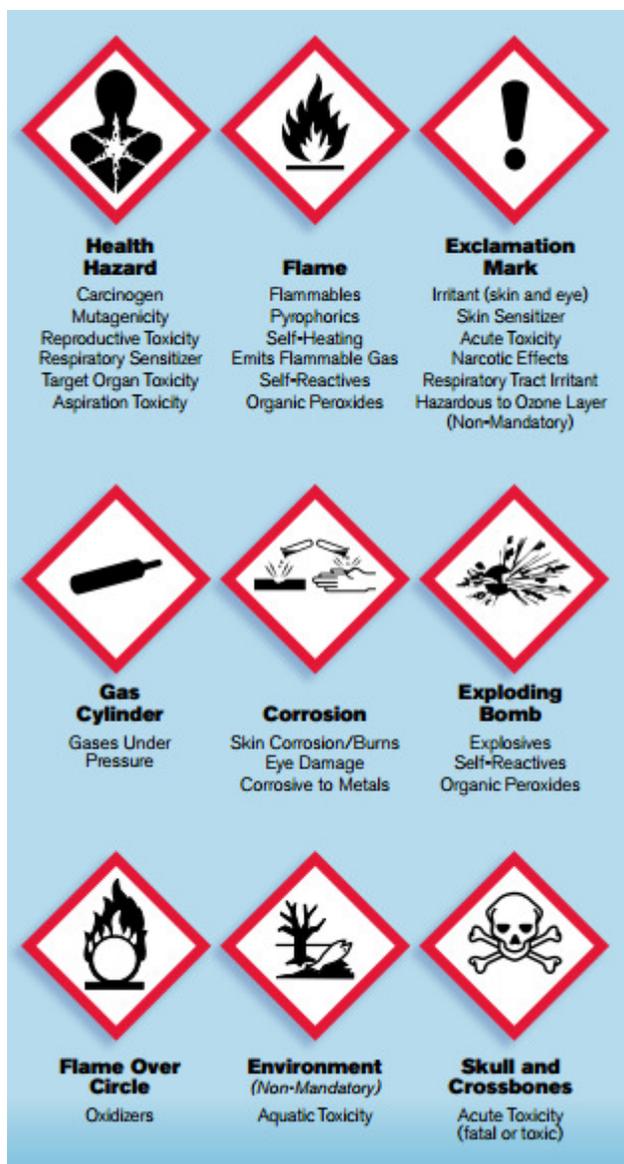
Methods and materials for containment and cleaning up:
Control the spill at its source. Contain the spill to prevent from spreading or contaminating soil or from entering sewage and drainage systems or any body of water. Clean up spills immediately, observing precautions outlined in Section 8. Cover entire spill with absorbing material and place into compatible disposal container. Scrub area with hard water detergent (e.g. commercial products such as Tide, Joy, Spic and Span). Pick up wash liquid with additional absorbent and place into compatible disposal container. Once all material is cleaned up and placed in a disposal container, seal container and arrange for disposition.

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What do chemical users need to do?

First and foremost, always read and follow the packaging label and SDS.

Chemical users and their employers should continue to update their files with the new Standard Data Sheets as they become available. Update hazard communications programs if new hazards associated with the chemicals used in your operation are identified. You should also familiarize yourself with the nine pictograms and what they stand for so you know what types of hazards you are dealing with.



According to the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University, here are some basic tips to [prevent chemical injury and exposure](#).²

- Guard against splashes, spills and skin contact when mixing, handling and applying chemicals. At a minimum, wear long pants, long sleeves (or coveralls) and enclosed shoes.
- Wear additional protective equipment as recommended by the label. This may include chemical-resistant gloves, goggles and/or a face shield and an approved respirator.
- Mix and prepare products in a well-ventilated area.
- Use only the amount and concentration specified by the label.
- Do not mix different products unless allowed by label directions.
- Launder chemical-soiled clothing separately from other laundry, and triple rinse.
- Avoid inhaling sprays, dust and vapors.

[Grainger.com](#)[®] offers a variety of labels, signs and tags, as well as the training materials needed for GHS compliance. In addition, Grainger can also be your source for the personal protective equipment required

for some chemicals. [INSERT STATE] Farm Bureau members can save at least 10 percent off the Grainger catalog price. PLUS, all Farm Bureau [Grainger.com](http://www.grainger.com)[®] orders qualify for FREE standard ground shipping.

The Center for Food Security and Public Health also provides some best practices for safe chemical storage:²

- **Limit storage areas to the minimum needed** to discourage storing unnecessary chemicals.
- **Store chemicals in a secure area.** Keep them in locked, weatherproof areas located above ground to prevent moisture problems, like rusting and disintegration. Locate storage areas at a safe site that will not be subjected to flooding. Make sure the area is well lit with a sign indicating the area contains chemicals, and provide at least two emergency contact numbers. Keep storage areas dry and well ventilated, avoiding freezing and extreme high temperatures. Keep chemicals out of reach of children and pets.
- **Store chemicals in their original containers.** Keep the containers tightly closed and clearly labeled. If labels become worn or damaged, re-label the container with its contents or discard the chemical. Never store chemicals in damaged containers, and never use food or beverage containers to store chemicals.

What are the benefits of the new standard?

There are more than 43 million workers who produce or handle hazardous chemicals in more than 5 million workplaces across the country. These new standards are expected to prevent as many as 500+ injuries and illnesses and 43 fatalities.

The new standard is a more consistent hazard information source in the workplace and the format is easier for workers to comprehend. The productivity improvements, fewer SDS and label updates, and the new, simpler hazard communication training are expected to save American businesses more than \$500 million.

All of these changes are ultimately intended to make users more aware of the products they are dealing with so that they safely utilize them. For more information about the new HCS, visit the Grainger GHS compliance site.

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1. "Are You Ready? GHS Hazard Communication Standard Final Rule," W.W. Grainger, Inc. 2013.

<http://static.grainger.com/images/GHS-Standard-Rule.pdf>

2. "Agrochemicals on Your Farm: Safety," The Center for Food Security and Public Health, Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

<http://www.prep4agthreats.org/Assets/Factsheets/Agrochemicals-on-Your-Farm-Safety.pdf>