



## Info Sheet #1 Pictograms

May, 2008

### How does the GHS define pictograms?

A pictogram is a symbol or picture which represents a word or idea. We see pictograms everyday in signs and labels. We are all familiar with the “No Smoking” pictogram posted in public buildings. The Department of Transportation (DOT) routinely requires labels with pictograms for vehicles carrying hazardous materials.

Under the GHS, a **pictogram** is a graphical representation that includes a symbol plus other graphic elements, such as a border, background pattern or color intended to convey specific information. In the most basic terms, a

pictogram is a picture plus a border used to convey information. **See the GHS pictograms on the next page.**

Under the GHS, a **symbol** is a graphical element intended to succinctly convey information – it is the picture or graphic without the border or background color. **See ‘When are pictograms and symbols required under the GHS?’ below.**

The distinction between pictogram and symbol is important: Certain circumstances require a pictogram, while others require only the symbol or pictogram name.

### When are pictograms and symbols required under the GHS?

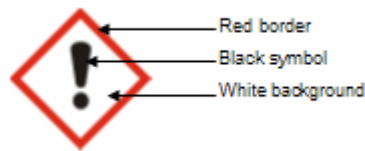
#### Labels

- When chemicals meet classification criteria under any of the hazard classes identified by the GHS, the corresponding pictogram **must** be printed on the chemical label.
- The pictograms **must** have a black symbol on a white background with a red border frame. A black frame may be used for shipments within one country if authorized by the competent authority. Where transport pictograms are required (e.g. under the DOT Hazardous Materials Regulations), the GHS pictogram for the same hazard should **not** appear.

#### MSDSs

- As part of the required label elements, the pictograms or symbols or the pictogram name(s) based on the product hazards must be listed.

#### Pictogram Example











**Pictogram Name:** Exclamation Mark

### To learn more ...

- Electronic images of GHS pictograms may be downloaded from the United Nation's GHS website at <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/pictograms.html>
- The GHS, in its entirety (including classification criteria and label and MSDS requirements), can be downloaded at [http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs\\_rev01/01files\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev01/01files_e.html)
- Find OSHA's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking at [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=FEDERAL\\_REGISTER&p\\_id=18890](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=18890)
- A 12-hour training course on the GHS is offered by the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC). [http://www.schc.org/schcnewsite/committee.php?page=profdev/courses/course\\_list.html](http://www.schc.org/schcnewsite/committee.php?page=profdev/courses/course_list.html)
- The OSHA Guide to the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labels is available at <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html>


## GHS Pictograms and Corresponding Chemical Hazards

Name	Hazard
 <b>Explosion</b>	Explosive (Unstable, Divisions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4), Self Reactive (Type A and B), Organic Peroxide (Type A and B)
 <b>Flame</b>	Flammable (Solids Categories 1 and 2, Liquids Categories 1, 2 and 3, Gases Category 1, Flammable Aerosols Categories 1 and 2), Self Reactive (Type B, C, D, E and F), Pyrophoric, Self-heating, Emits Flammable Gas, Organic Peroxide (Type B, C, D, and F)
 <b>Flame over Circle</b>	Oxidizer
 <b>Gas Cylinder</b>	Gas under pressure

Name	Hazard
 <b>Corrosive</b>	Corrosive (Skin Corrosion Categories 1A, 1B and 1C, Eye Corrosion Category 1), Corrosive to metals.
 <b>Skull</b>	Acute toxicity (Categories 1, 2, and 3)
 <b>Exclamation Mark</b>	Irritant (Skin Irritation Category 2 and Eye Irritation Category 2A), Dermal Sensitizer (Category 1), Acute Toxicity (Category 4, harmful), Target Organ Toxicity/ STOT Category 3 = narcotic effects, respiratory irritation
 <b>Chronic Health Hazard</b>	Carcinogen (Categories 1A, 1B, and 2), Respiratory Sensitizer (Category 1), Reproductive Toxicity (Categories 1A, 1B, and 2), Target Organ Toxicity/STOT (Categories 1 and 2), Mutagenicity (Categories 1A, 1B and 2), Aspiration Toxicity (Categories 1 and 2)

### Additional Pictograms

OSHA does not have jurisdiction over environmental hazards, and the following GHS pictogram will not be covered by OSHA. It may be covered by other agencies once those decisions have been made, and is provided for informational purposes.

 <b>Environmental Hazard</b>	Acute Aquatic Toxicity (Category 1), Chronic Aquatic Toxicity (Categories 1 and 2)
--	--

*The information contained in this sheet is believed to accurately represent provisions of U.S. regulations, consensus standards, and current GHS requirements. However, SCHC cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this information. Users are responsible for determining the suitability and appropriateness of these materials for any particular application.*

*This sheet was developed through OSHA's Alliance Program for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor.*