



Pictograms

October 2017

What are Pictograms?

Generally speaking, a pictogram, pictograph or icon are a symbol and/or picture that represents a concept, word or instruction. We see pictograms every day in signs and labels, often in public places. Beginning with the image on the below left, we all are familiar with "No Smoking" pictogram posted in public buildings and the "No diving" graphic (center) on signs posted on the decks of swimming pools. The right image is a Department of Transportation (DOT) required markings and/or placarding with 'flammable' pictogram inset for vehicles carrying hazardous materials, in this case a flammable solid.



How does OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) define Pictograms?

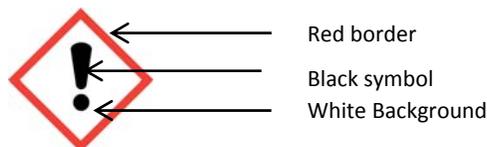
Under HCS or 'HazCom', a pictogram is an image within a frame (border) of a specified shape and color that is intended to convey a concept, be easily recognized, and be applied uniformly. Eight pictograms are designated under the HCS for application to unique hazard categories. The 'symbol' or 'artwork' for six of these eight pictograms is like those used by the DOT on their markings and placards (flammable, corrosive, poison, explosive, oxidizer, compressed gas). In the most basic terms, an HCS pictogram is a picture plus a border used to convey information, [See the HCS pictograms in the table below.](#)

When are pictograms and symbols required under HCS or HazCom?

Labels

- When chemicals meet classification criteria under the hazard classes identified by OSHA to require a pictogram (29 CFR 1910.1200, Appendix C), the corresponding pictogram **must** be printed on the chemical label (together with the other required information).
- Chemicals with combustible dust and simple asphyxiants hazard do not have assigned pictograms (29 CFR 1910-1200 Appendix C.4.30)
- The pictograms on labels **must** have a black symbol on a white background with a red border frame (with some exceptions in the workplace).

Pictogram Example



SDSs

- The pictograms or symbols based on chemical hazards **may** appear on the SDS. Alternately, the pictogram name(s) **may** be listed. The table below indicates the pictogram names.

Pictograms and their Corresponding Chemical Hazards

Name	Hazard	Name	Hazard
 <i>Exploding Bomb</i>	Explosive	 <i>Corrosive</i>	Corrosive (Skin, eye) Corrosive to metals
 <i>Flame</i>	Flammable (Solids, Liquids, Gas)	 <i>Skull</i>	Acute toxicity
 <i>Flame over Circle</i>	Oxidizer (Solids, Liquids, Gas)	 <i>Exclamation Mark</i>	Irritant Skin Sensitizer Acute Toxicity Target Organ Toxicity/STOT
 <i>Gas Cylinder</i>	Gas under pressure	 <i>Health Hazard</i>	Carcinogen Respiratory Sensitizer Reproductive Toxicity Target Organ Toxicity/STOT Mutagenicity Aspiration Hazard

To learn more...

- OSHA: Hazard Communication: <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>
- SCHC site: <http://www.schc.org/osha-alliance>

The information contained in this sheet is believed to accurately represent HCS 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.

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