



Hazard Communication Information Sheet reflecting the US OSHA Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

Produced by the SCHC-OSHA Alliance
GHS/HazCom Information Sheet Workgroup

Corrosive to Metal

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How does HazCom 2012 define Corrosive to Metal?

A chemical which is *corrosive to metal* means a chemical which by chemical action will materially damage, or even destroy, metal. A real life example of metal corrosion is rust on iron.

The testing to determine corrosivity to metals is conducted with steel and/or aluminum. The classification depends on the rate that corrosion occurs and the degree of damage to the metal. If a chemical or mixture causes corrosion, but not at the specific rate determined by the test, the chemical or mixture is not considered to be corrosive to metal. Sensitivity to corrosion varies with the particular metal. For instance, in the example given, water would not be classified as corrosive to metal because the rate at which water corrodes iron does not satisfy the classification criteria.

There is no direct correlation between substances that are corrosive to the skin and/or eyes and substances that are corrosive to metals. The converse is also true.

This is a new category for classification for the US; OSHA HCS 1994 did not include a category for corrosive to metal.

How is Corrosive to Metal classified under OSHA HazCom 2012?

Table 1 presents the OSHA HCS classification criteria for chemicals corrosive to metals.

Table 2 presents the OSHA HCS label elements and precautionary statements for chemicals corrosive to metals.

Table 1: Classification Criteria

Category	Category 1
Description	Corrosion rate on either steel or aluminum surfaces exceeding 6.25 mm per year at a test temperature of 55°C (131°F) when tested* on both materials.

*The HCS does not require testing; data from available scientific literature and other evidence may be used in lieu of testing. However, if testing is performed, the method is provided in the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria (link below).

Table 2: Label Elements

Category	Signal Word	Hazard Statement	Pictogram
1	Warning	May be corrosive to metals	

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 current OSHA 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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