Proper Labeling for Containers of Hazardous Chemicals in MSU Laboratories

Labeling Basics

For containers labeled by the manufacturer: (see left)
1. Inspect the label on incoming containers.
2. Replace damaged or semi-attached labels.

For transferred products or prepared solutions labeled by the user*: (see right)
1. Label each chemical container with the chemical name and hazard warning.
2. Refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for hazard warnings.

Alternate Method for Labeling Multiple Small Containers

Legend Method:
1. Label containers with abbreviated chemical name and hazard warning.
2. Provide a key in a visible location in the lab with complete chemical name.
3. Document that employees are trained on the labeling system.

Box or Tray Method:
1. Put containers in box or tray.
2. Label tray with chemical name and hazard warning.
3. If containers are removed from box/tray they must be properly labeled or returned to the box or tray within the workshift.*
4. Document that employees are trained on the labeling system.

Peroxidizable Chemicals

Must be labeled with:
1. Date Received
2. Date Opened
3. Date Tested
4. Test Results

See CHP Appendix H for more information.

ORCBS Contact Information:

Phone: 355-0153
Fax: 353-4871
E-Mail: orcbs@msu.edu
Web: www.orcbs.msu.edu
Hot-Line: 432-SAFE

* If the container is created and emptied within the workshift and is under the control of the person transferring the chemical, it does not have to be labeled.