



*Making UNLV a Safer Place*

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**This Issue's Topic: Hazardous Materials Labeling For Laboratory Workers**

Hazardous materials must be labeled according to OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (Hazcom). Chemicals that have been manufactured or imported into this country after March 11, 1994 meet this standard. However, some old chemicals may still be found around campus. Under certain conditions labels fade or come off, sometimes chemicals are not imported properly and the bottle is properly labeled for Germany, as an example, but is not appropriate for UNLV. Other times hazardous materials are placed in a short term storage container (a container intended for immediate use) or a hazardous material is taken out of its original labeled container for use or disposal.

In order to comply with Hazcom and OSHA's Laboratory Standard, all chemical containers shall be labeled with the following information in legible English:

- 1) Chemical Name
- 2) Chemical Hazards (written hazard warnings may be substituted by icons, like the NFPA 704M, as long as the icon adequately communicates the hazards)
- 3) Chemical Manufacturer
- 4) Part Number
- 5) Recommended personal protective equipment (or MSDS must be available for this information).
- 6) Date received (recommended)
- 7) Date opened (if opened) for chemicals that have a reduced shelf life after opening

The exception to this labeling requirement is if a chemical, or mixture of chemicals, is prepared in a secondary container, and will be completely used during the same work shift as it was prepared, only by the employee who prepares the mixture. If a mixture of chemicals is being prepared for use in a laboratory procedure, then the chemical name and hazards are required for all constituents, unless the specific hazards of the mixture are known, then the name and hazards of the mixture are required. A label may contain only a name or code (i.e. for student labs where they are finding the identity of an "unknown") as long as the name or code is easily referenced to a written key that contains all of the required label information.

If any of this information cannot be found for that specific container, the container shall be considered waste and dealt with accordingly. Proper labeling does not take a lot of

time when chemical stocks are properly rotated, and secondary containers are labeled as they are created.

While non-compliance with regulations is a major legal issue that could result in severe penalties to the university and its personnel, it is more importantly a serious safety issue that could result in the loss of your life, the life of a coworker, or that of an emergency responder.