

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: OSHA's Revised Haz-Com Standard - "Flame" Pictogram on Labels

[Reference 1910.1200(f) / 1926.59(f)]

OSHA recently revised their Hazard Communication Standard to align with the international "Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals", commonly referred to as "GHS". As a result, manufacturers and distributors of hazardous chemicals and products must begin standardizing their container labels to display new features called "Pictograms". These are eight different icons used to depict distinct hazards associated with their products. Some products may have only one or two of the eight pictograms displayed on their labels, whereas more complex products may have multiple pictograms appearing on their label when the product presents multiple safety or health hazards.

Today we will discuss the specific pictogram that depicts a **"Flame"** (*see this pictogram provided on the handout provided with this toolbox talk, we recommend making copies for each trainee*). As the picture implies, this "Flame" Pictogram is associated with products and chemicals that are flammable or combustible. But it also appears on the label of pyrophoric materials, which in a gaseous state will ignite spontaneously in air at a temperature of 130 degrees Fahrenheit or below, as well as all self-heating materials, materials that emit flammable gas, self-reactive materials, and organic peroxides.

When you see a label with the Pictogram depicting the "Flame" on a label, refer to the hazard statement(s) that appear on the label too, as it can provide more information about the level of hazard you are dealing with. And also pay particular attention to the Precautionary Statements appearing on the label too, as they list recommended measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent fires and explosions resulting from improper storage, use, or handling of the product or chemical. Examples of precautionary statements that may accompany the "Flame" Pictogram are "Keep away from heat, flames, sparks", "Do not store near open flames or sources of high heat", and/or "No Smoking." Additional information about safe use and storage is also available on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the product.

This particular pictogram should help you quickly identify potential fire and explosion hazards associated with some of the products we use here at work (*if possible, give specific examples of such products present at your job site*). OSHA has given manufacturers and importers of hazardous products until June 1, 2015 to make the full transition to the new labeling requirements, so you may not see Pictograms on labels of all containers until the transition to the revised labeling requirements are fully implemented. In the meantime, start to watch for the "Flame" Pictogram to appear on some container labels here at work, and heed the warnings and specific precautions provided for use of that product.

Anyone have a question or comment about the "Flame" Pictogram that you will soon start to see on some labels? Please be sure to sign-in on the training certification form.



FLAME

- **Flammables**
- **Pyrophorics**
- **Self-Heating**
- **Emits Flammable Gas**
- **Self-Reactives**
- **Organic Peroxides**