

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: OSHA's Revised Haz-Com Standard - "Flame Over Circle" Pictogram

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

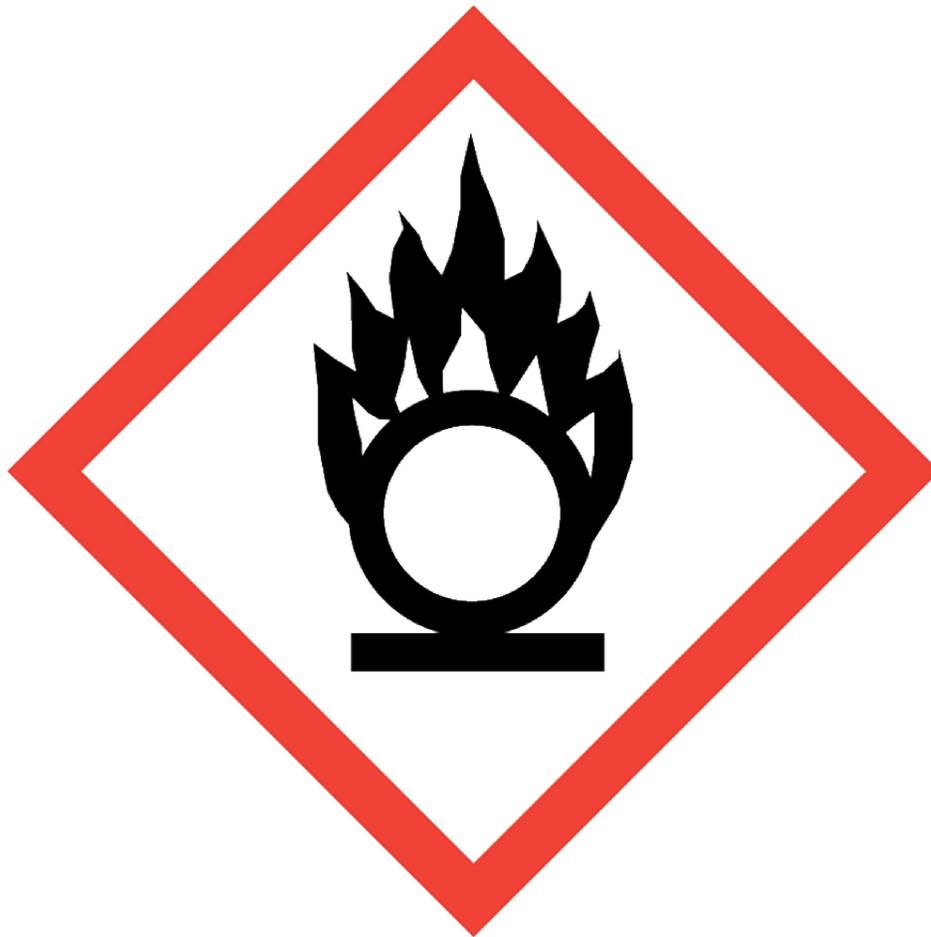
OSHA recently revised their Hazard Communication Standard to require manufacturers and distributors of hazardous chemicals and products to begin standardizing their container labels to display new features called "Pictograms". These are eight different icons used to depict distinct hazards associated 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 Over Circle**" (*see this pictogram provided on the handout provided with this toolbox talk, we recommend making copies for each trainee*). This Pictogram is specific to solids, liquids, and gasses that are classified as "**Oxidizers**". DO NOT confuse this pictogram with the similar-looking "Flame" Pictogram discussed in an earlier toolbox talk, as that one identifies products and chemicals that are flammable. **So what is an Oxidizer?** Oxidizers are gasses, such as oxygen, fluorine, and chlorine, which cause any combustible material (like wood or gasoline) to burn much more rapidly or intensely than normal. There are also oxidizing liquids such as perchloric acid and bromine, as well as oxidizing solids like strontium peroxide and aluminum nitrate, that have the same effect.

So, when you see a label with the Pictogram depicting the "**Flame Over Circle**" on a label, refer to the hazard statement(s) that appear on the label, 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 Over Circle**" Pictogram are "Store only in well-ventilated areas", "Do not store near flammable gasses or liquids", and/or "Keep away from oil and grease." Additional information about safe use and storage of an Oxidizer is also available on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the product.

This particular pictogram should help you quickly recognize potentially hazardous associated with products that are **Oxidizers** (*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 Over Circle**" Pictogram that identifies **Oxidizers** 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 Over Circle**" Pictogram that you will soon start to see on some labels? Please be sure to sign-in on the training certification form.



FLAME OVER CIRCLE

- Oxidizer