

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: OSHA's Revised Haz-Com Standard - "Health Hazard" Pictogram

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

Today we will discuss the "**Health Hazard**" pictogram that identifies chemicals and products which could lead to chronic (means slow developing) or sometimes acute health problems (*see this pictogram provided on the handout provided with this toolbox talk, we recommend making copies for each trainee*). Potential health hazards associated with this pictogram include:

- Carcinogens - which can lead to the development of a cancer;
- Mutagens – these can alter your DNA, which can lead to defects in future offspring;
- Reproductive Hazards - which can affect the ability of healthy men and women to conceive healthy children;
- Respiratory Sensitizers – this means you might have a hyper-allergic reaction when re-exposed to the chemical at even low levels after you have been initially over-exposed;
- Target Organ Toxicity – which means the chemical or products affects the normal function of specific organs (such as liver, kidney, blood, and others); and,
- Aspiration Toxicity – this can lead to the development of chemical pneumonia.

So, when you see the "**Health Hazard**" pictogram on a product label, refer to the hazard statement(s) that appear on that label too, as they can provide more information about the level of hazard you are dealing with, as well as the chemical's route(s) of entry into your body and the particular organ(s) targeted by the chemical.

And pay particular attention to the Precautionary Statements appearing on the label too, as they list recommended measures that should be taken to minimize the potential for developing an illness resulting from use or handling of the toxic product. Examples of precautionary statements that may accompany products bearing the "**Health Hazard**" pictogram on the label are "Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product", "Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing", "Do not breathe dust/fume/gas/mist/vapors/spray", and/or "Wear protective gloves/protective clothing". Additional information about precautions to follow and safe use of these products is also available on their Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

This particular pictogram should help you quickly recognize potentially hazardous associated with products that are short and long-term health risks (*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 in the meantime, watch for the "**Health hazard**" pictogram to appear on some of the container labels here at work, and heed the warnings and precautions provided for use of that product.

Does anyone have a question or comment about the "**Health Hazard**" pictogram that you will soon start to see on some labels? Please be sure to sign-in on the training certification form.



HEALTH HAZARD

- **Carcinogen**
- **Mutagenicity**
- **Reproductive Toxicity**
- **Respiratory Sensitizer**
- **Target Organ Toxicity**
- **Aspiration Toxicity**