

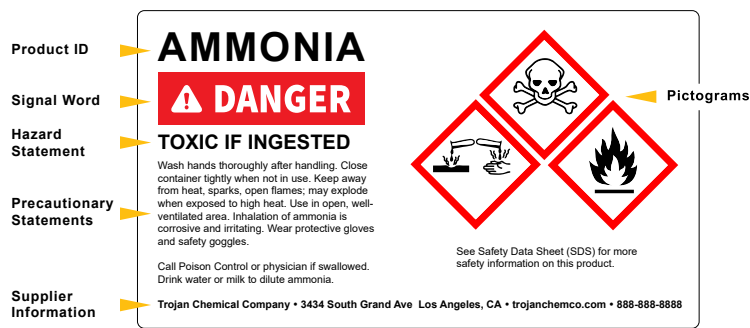
# FactSheet

# Globally Harmonized System (GHS)

The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) is an international approach to Hazard Communication that standardizes chemical hazard classification, labeling, and safety data sheets (SDS). The GHS provides an employer the means by which to effectively communicate the hazards associated with certain chemicals.

Labels for hazardous chemicals must include the following:

- Product identifier
- Signal word
- Hazard statement(s)
- Precautionary statement(s)
- Pictogram(s)
- Name, address and telephone number of the manufacturer, importer or other responsible party



Sample label

**Signal Words** reflect the *severity* of the hazard.

- “Danger” is used for more severe hazards
- “Warning” is used for the less severe hazards



**Hazard Statements** describe the nature of the chemical hazard(s) including the degree of the hazard(s):

- May cause fire or explosion; strong oxidizer.
- Causes severe skin burns and eye damage.

**Precautionary Statements** describe the recommended measures that need to be taken to protect health and secure safety.

- Keep away from heat; avoid mixing with combustibles.
- Wear protective goggles. Wash hands and face after handling. Do not breathe dust or mists.

OSHA requires employers to make SDSs (formerly MSDS) available either as hard copies or electronic facsimiles. SDSs for hazardous chemicals used at USC are available through the [SDS link](#). USC researchers may access the vast library of documents for immediate download.

**Standard Pictograms** reflect the various hazard categories.

<b>Health Hazard</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carcinogen</li><li>• Mutagenicity</li><li>• Reproductive Toxicity</li><li>• Respiratory Sensitizer</li><li>• Target Organ Toxicity</li><li>• Aspiration Toxicity</li></ul>	<b>Flame</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flammables</li><li>• Pyrophorics</li><li>• Self-Heating</li><li>• Emits Flammable Gas</li><li>• Self-Reactives</li><li>• Organic Peroxides</li></ul>	<b>Exclamation Mark</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irritant (skin and eye)</li><li>• Skin Sensitizer</li><li>• Acute Toxicity (harmful)</li><li>• Narcotic Effects</li><li>• Respiratory Tract Irritant</li><li>• Hazardous to Ozone Layer (Non-Mandatory)</li></ul>
<b>Gas Cylinder</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gases Under Pressure</li></ul>	<b>Corrosion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skin Corrosion/ Burns</li><li>• Eye Damage</li><li>• Corrosive to Metals</li></ul>	<b>Exploding Bomb</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explosives</li><li>• Self-Reactives</li><li>• Organic Peroxides</li></ul>
<b>Flame Over Circle</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oxidizers</li></ul>	<b>Environment (Non-Mandatory)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aquatic Toxicity</li></ul>	<b>Skull and Crossbones</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acute Toxicity (fatal or toxic)</li></ul>

## Reference

[OSHA Hazard Communication Standard Pictogram](#)

