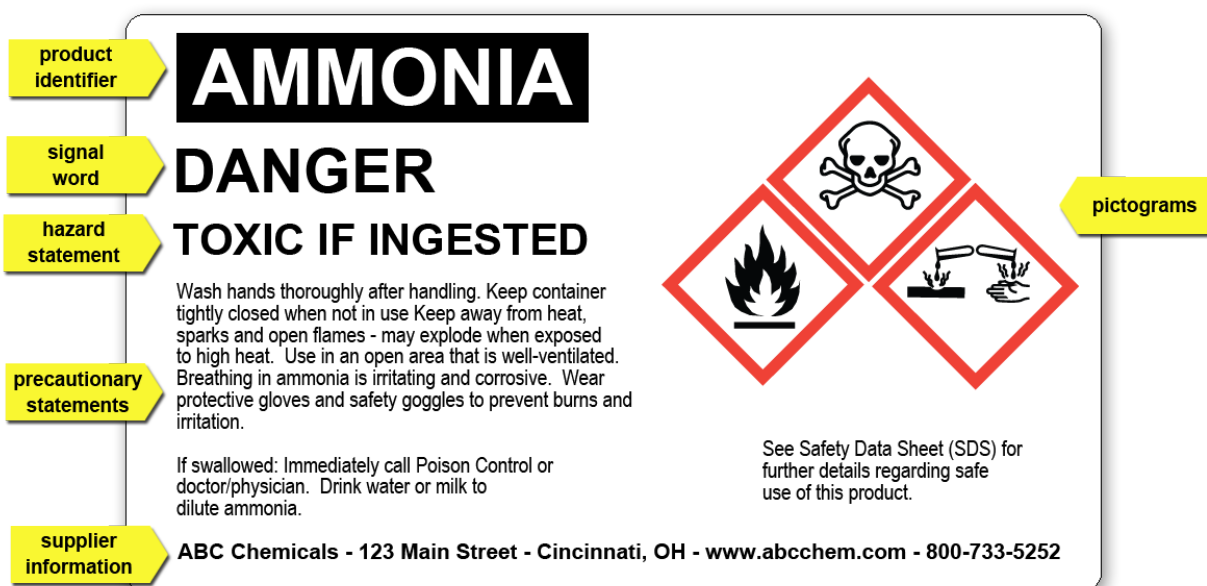


Appendix B – Container Labeling

Chemical container labels are a good resource for information on chemical hazards. All containers of hazardous chemicals must have labels attached. Figure B.1 displays the label requirements.

Figure B.1 – GHS Container Labeling requirements



The warning may be a single word (e.g. Danger, Caution, Warning) or may identify the primary hazards, including both physical (e.g. water reactive, flammable, or explosive) and health (e.g. carcinogen, corrosive, or irritant), such as what is found on the hazard warnings from the label or SDS. The label will also have hazard pictograms associated with the degree of hazard.

Most labels provide additional safety information to help workers protect themselves from the substance. This information may include protective measures and/or protective clothing to be used, first aid instructions, storage information, and emergency procedures. For further information on the product, please consult the manufacturer's SDS.

Labeling is important for the safe management of chemicals, preventing accidental misuse, inadvertent mixing of incompatible chemicals, and facilitating proper chemical

storage. Proper labeling helps ensure quick response in the event of an accident, such as chemical spill or chemical exposure incident. Finally, proper labeling prevents the high costs associated with disposal of “Unknown” chemicals.

Except for transient containers that will contain chemicals for immediate use, all containers of chemicals being used or generated in Cal Poly Humboldt’s research laboratories must be labeled sufficiently to indicate the contents of the container. On original containers, the label must not be removed or defaced in any way until the container is emptied of its original contents. Incoming containers must be inspected to make sure the label is in good condition. It is also advisable to put a date on new chemicals when they are received in the laboratory, and to put a date on containers of chemicals generated in the laboratory, as well as the initials of the responsible person.

Abbreviations or other acronyms may be used to label containers of chemicals generated in the laboratory as long as all personnel working in the laboratory understand the meaning of the label, or know the location of information, such as a laboratory notebook or log sheet that contains the code associated with content information. In addition, small containers, such as vials and test tubes, can be labeled as a group by labeling the outer container (e.g. rack or box). Alternatively, a placard can be used to label the storage location for small containers (e.g. shelf, refrigerator, etc.). This information must be provided to janitorial and maintenance staff as part of their hazard communication training. Containers of practically non-toxic and relatively harmless chemicals must also be labeled with content information, including containers such as squirt bottles containing water.

With respect to chemical labeling, all potential chemicals transferred from their original container to a second container must be labeled with a compliant GHS chemical name and the principal hazards found on the primary container label or SDS. For more information on labeling, reference the section on labeling, storage, inventory, and transport.