

3.3.4 Labeling and Signs

3.3.4.1 Labels

Container labeling can be a very effective method to communicate the physical and health hazards of chemicals used in laboratories. As per the Texas Hazard Communication Act, the chemical manufacturer, importer or distributor must ensure that each container of hazardous chemical is labeled, tagged or marked with the following three elements of information:

- Identity of the Chemical,
- Appropriate Hazard Warnings and
- Name and Address of the manufacturer, distributor or responsible party.

The containers that you receive directly from the manufacturer or distributor are called primary containers. These primary containers usually have appropriate labeling and contain the above mentioned information.

- All chemical containers must be labeled.
- All labels must be legible in English and include chemical/product name. Chemical formulas are not acceptable.
- Whenever required they should include information related to relevant hazards.
- Labels on incoming containers must not be removed or defaced.
- Date all peroxidizable and other chemicals, which may become unstable over time. When required include the information
- Waste chemical containers must be clearly marked “Hazardous Waste” indicating specific name of waste chemical and date when full.
- All secondary containers should be labeled and include all the essential components of labeling just like primary containers.

3.3.4.2 Signs

Each Laboratory door must be legibly marked with the following information:

- Room Number
- Laboratory Supervisor’s name
- Emergency contacts, including names, office location, and emergency telephone numbers

Every laboratory should visibly post the following signs and posters:

- Employee Right to Know poster
- Emergency Contact Information
- Common lab problems or general lab instructions poster
- Special hazards/emergency instructions when appropriate

- Location signs for safety equipment, first aid equipment and exits: Contact the department of Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management for assistance.
- Areas where food and beverage consumption and storage are permitted.

Warning signs at areas or equipment where special or unusual hazards exist like excessive flammables or fragile equipment.