

# SAFELY WORKING WITH AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides) are essential tools for farm production and need not be hazardous to your health if you follow basic safety rules. Most injuries and illnesses from agricultural chemicals can be traced to unsafe handling or the storage of chemicals in an unsafe condition. Always store, mix, use and dispose of chemicals in accordance with the manufacturers labeling instructions and Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

Everything in our environment is chemical in nature. The question is, how much of a specific chemical is harmful? Small doses of some chemicals are very toxic, while others require larger doses to be dangerous. You must always be aware that chemicals may be harmful and can enter your body through many forms of contact, including:

- Through the mouth (ingestion).
- Through the skin pores or eyes (absorption).
- Through the skin (injection).
- Through the lungs (inhalation).

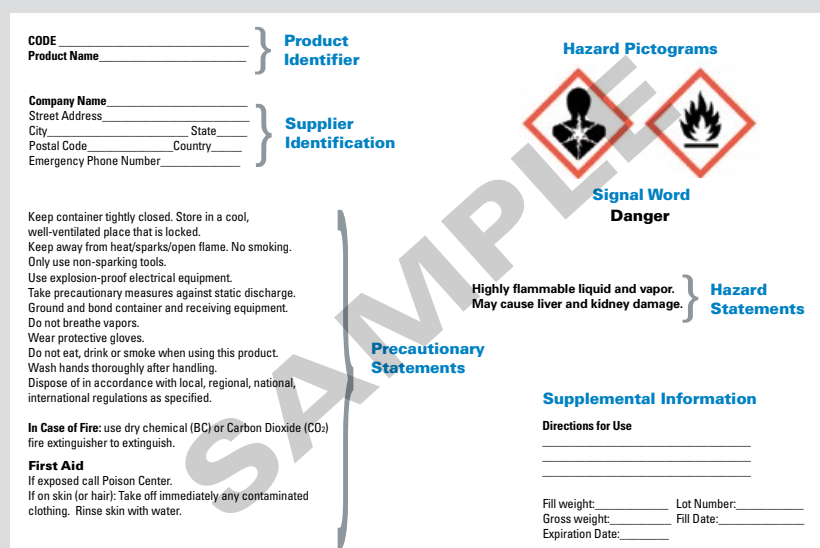


## READ THE LABEL

The Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) is now aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). The Hazard Communication Standard provides a common and coherent approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets. All containers of hazardous chemicals must be labeled, tagged, or marked with the identity of the material and appropriate hazard warnings.

Labels must contain the following information:

- Product Identification
- Supplier Identification
- Precautionary Statements
- Hazard Pictograms
- Signal Word(s)
- Hazard Statement
- Supplemental Information




**CODE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Product Name** \_\_\_\_\_ } **Product Identifier**

**Company Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ } **Supplier Identification**  
**Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Emergency Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

Keep container tightly closed. Store in a cool, well-ventilated place that is locked.  
Keep away from heat/sparks/open flame. No smoking.  
Only use non-sparking tools.  
Use explosion-proof electrical equipment.  
Take precautionary measures against static discharge.  
Ground and bond container and receiving equipment.  
Do not breathe vapors.  
Wear protective gloves.  
Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.  
Wash hands thoroughly after handling.  
Dispose of in accordance with local, regional, national, international regulations as specified.

**In Case of Fire:** use dry chemical (BC) or Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) fire extinguisher to extinguish.  
**First Aid**  
If exposed call Poison Center.  
If on skin (or hair): Take off immediately any contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water.

**Hazard Pictograms**  


**Signal Word**  
**Danger**

**Hazard Statements**  
Highly flammable liquid and vapor.  
May cause liver and kidney damage.

**Precautionary Statements**

**Supplemental Information**  
**Directions for Use**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fill weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Lot Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gross weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Fill Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# SAFELY WORKING WITH AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS



- Never eat, drink, or smoke when handling toxic chemicals.
- Pour liquids, powders, and dusts slowly to avoid splash or spill.
- When mixing chemicals, always pour the chemical into the water.
- If a respirator is needed, make sure to follow the guidelines listed in the OSHA 1910.134 Respiratory Protection program.
- Do not leave toxic chemicals unattended in the field.
- Chemical assistance equipment should be thoroughly cleaned before repairs are made.
- Store agricultural chemicals outside the home and away from the reach of children or pets, preferably in a locked storage area.
- Keep chemicals in their original labeled containers.
- Promptly and properly dispose of empty containers.
- Avoid inhalation or contact with sprays and dusts. Use appropriate respirators, goggles, face shields, gloves, overalls, boots, and other protective equipment as needed.
- Wash hands and face thoroughly and change into clean clothes after spraying or dusting.
- Launder all clothes exposed to the chemical separately from any other items, and:
  - o Handle all contaminated clothing with clean gloves.
  - Wash clothing separately from family wash.
  - Wash clothes daily.
  - Rinse or soak first.
  - Use hot water.
  - Use heavy-duty liquid detergent.
  - Wash a few items at a time.
  - Use highest water level.
  - Use longest wash time and line dry.
  - After washing, run the washing machine through a complete cycle with detergent before using again.