Labelling Chemical Containers Stats and Facts



FACTS

1. **Improper Labelling of Chemical Containers:** Failing to label chemical containers correctly can lead to misuse, exposure to hazardous substances, and potential health risks.
2. **Use of Unlabeled Secondary Containers:** Transferring chemicals into secondary containers without proper labeling increases the risk of accidental exposure and chemical reactions.
3. **Illegible or Damaged Labels:** Labels that are faded, smudged, or damaged may not convey critical hazard information, leading to unsafe handling practices.
4. **Non-Compliance with GHS Standards:** Not adhering to the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for labeling can result in inconsistent hazard communication and regulatory violations.
5. **Lack of Training on Label Interpretation:** Employees unfamiliar with label elements may misinterpret hazard warnings, leading to improper handling and increased risk of incidents.
6. **Removal or Alteration of Original Labels:** Altering or removing original labels without proper replacement can obscure essential hazard information.

STATS

- OSHA’s 2023 data reported that 15% of HazCom violations involved improper labelling of chemical containers, contributing to 3,000 workplace injuries annually.
- WorkSafeBC noted in 2022 that 10% of chemical-related incidents in British Columbia were linked to missing or illegible labels, with 30% in laboratories.
- A 2022 Journal of Occupational Safety study found that 20% of chemical exposure incidents in manufacturing were due to inadequate secondary container labelling.
- Statistics Canada’s 2021 Workplace Safety Survey indicated that 12% of workers in chemical-related industries reported unclear or missing labels, increasing mishandling risks.
- The CDC’s 2023 NIOSH Chemical Safety Report stated that workplaces with GHS-compliant labelling reduced chemical mishandling incidents by up to 25%.
- CCOHS reported in 2023 that proper labelling of hazardous products lowered chemical exposure complaints by 18%, per WHMIS standards.
- A 2024 EHS Today analysis estimated that 8% of chemical-related injuries (approximately 1,500 cases) were linked to non-compliant labelling, addressable

through OSHA’s 2024 HazCom updates.