

# ***Read the label!***

**Information for industrial and institutional users of detergents and cleaning products**



- Due to the implementation of the updated legislation on classification and labelling of chemicals, new warning labels will soon be appearing on I&I products.
- All danger symbols, risk and safety information that you used to see, may change (but this does not mean that the products are different).
- This leaflet explains the changes to help ensure safe use and handling of detergents and cleaning products.

**AS ALWAYS:**

**PLEASE READ THE LABEL.**

**FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED.**

## What's new?

The United Nations have published a new classification and labelling system for chemical substances and mixtures: the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling (GHS).

The Classification, Labelling & Packaging Regulation (CLP) is the implementation of GHS in the European Union. It affects all chemicals including detergents and cleaning products for consumer and Industrial & Institutional (I&I) use.

### The CLP Regulation is mandatory from:

- 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 for substances
- 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 for mixtures

Substances and mixtures placed on the market before these dates carrying the old labels may be used for another two years after 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 respectively. By 2017, all product labels will have to carry the new hazard pictograms.

## CLP hazard pictograms



GHS07: Exclamation mark



GHS02: Flame



GHS05: Corrosion



GHS09: Environment



GHS03: Flame over circle



GHS04: Gas cylinder



GHS06: Skull and crossbones



GHS08: Health hazard

There are other new pictograms which are not relevant for detergents and cleaning products.

## New hazard pictograms

Probably you are familiar with the black and orange symbols that appear on detergents and cleaning products.

The danger symbols show that products you are using can be oxidising, highly or extremely flammable, flammable, toxic, corrosive, irritant or dangerous for the environment.

The first thing that you may notice is that the new hazard pictograms are similar to the “old” danger symbols except with a different shape and colour. Now the symbols become more similar to the transport diamonds.

**However, two completely new hazard pictograms have been introduced:**



Indicates health hazards like skin irritation or sensitisation, serious eye irritation or that a product could be harmful if swallowed.



Indicates more severe health hazards.

## New signal words

Hazard pictograms will be accompanied by the “newly” introduced signal words.

■ **Warning** (indicating less severe hazard)

■ **Danger** (indicating more severe hazard)

old



### Product name

Irritating to eyes and skin. Keep out of the reach of children. In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice. Wear suitable gloves.

Xi Irritant

Company X street XX town Y Country Z Tel:0123456789



new



Danger

### Product name

Contains: alcohols, c9-11, ethoxylated; 3-butoxypropane-2-ol; propyleneglycol monobutyl ether. Causes skin irritation. Causes serious eye damage. Wear protective gloves: 1-4 hours (breakthrough time): butyl rubber, nitrile rubber. Wear eye or face protection. Wash with plenty of soap and water. Take off contaminated clothing. Wash contaminated clothing before reuse. If skin irritation occurs: Get medical attention IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present easy to do. Continue rinsing. Immediately call a POISON CENTER or physician.

Company X street XX town Y Country Z Tel:0123456789

**NB:** Examples above are provided for illustrative purpose only. Size of pictograms and label are subject to specific requirements for use on pack.

## Did you know ?



→ The CLP Regulation replaces the Dangerous Substances Directive (DSD) and Dangerous Preparations Directive (DPD).

→ The EU has implemented CLP to ensure that substances and mixtures are classified and labelled in the same way globally. In the past, product a could be classified as toxic in one region but not in another region. Different symbols were used to indicate the same hazard and some other countries did not have any system at all.

→ The changes are introduced gradually. This will mean that - for a limited time - DPD and CLP labels can be used in parallel for products placed on the market (although not on the same hazard label). By 2017 (for mixtures), all product labels will need to display the «new» hazard pictograms.

→ It is possible that products not classified as dangerous for DPD/DSD will be labelled with a hazard pictogram under CLP. This does not mean that the product has changed but means that the classification rules under both regulations are different (more stringent under CLP than under DPD/DSD).

→ In addition, advice can be given to minimise the risk of chemical hazards causing any harm. Therefore the new hazard pictograms will be accompanied with precautionary statement(s), e.g. , "Wear protective gloves".



## What to do?

The most important advice for users of detergent and maintenance product manufacturers is also the simplest:

**READ THE LABEL BEFORE USING A PRODUCT.**

For more information, also read the safety data sheet.

To use a product safely, follow these steps:

→ **Read the label.**

*What is the hazard classification?*

→ **Locate and read the safety data sheet.**

*Is this the right product for the job?*

*Are there any precautions I have to take, e.g. wearing gloves, ...*

→ **Use the product as instructed.**

***Published by A.I.S.E.***

**International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance products**

15 A Avenue Herrmann Debroux  
B- 1160 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: + 32 (0)2 679 62 60

Fax: + 32 (0)2 679 62 79

[aise.main@aise.eu](mailto:aise.main@aise.eu)

[www.aise.eu](http://www.aise.eu)