

FACT SHEET

HCB 007

Standards for Hazardous Chemical Containers Labels Under the Texas Hazard Communication Act

Texas Hazard Communication Act (THCA) Rules Revisions:

The THCA's administrative rules, codified as Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code, Section 295.1–295.12, were revised effective September 1, 1999, to ensure consistency between the rules and the THCA (Chapter 502 of the Texas Health and Safety Code). These revisions in part provide employers with greater flexibility in labeling containers of hazardous chemicals in accordance with Sections 295.2(6) and 295.6(a), (c), (d), (f) and (g) of the THCA Rules.

Standards for Chemical Container Labels:

§295.2(6) -- Redefines a hazardous chemical “container” to include any container that contains multiple smaller containers of an identical hazardous chemical. This revision will relieve employers from the requirement to re-label small primary containers in certain situations.

§295.2(16) -- Defines a “stationary process container” as a tank, vat or other such container which holds different hazardous chemicals at different times.

§295.6(a) – Requires relabeling of primary containers if the label is illegible or if the label does not meet the labeling requirements of the OSHA Standard.

§295.6(c) – When relabeling of primary containers is necessary, requires the replacement label to include the identity of the chemical appearing on the MSDS and appropriate hazard warnings, words, pictures, symbols, or combinations, which provide general information regarding the hazards of the chemicals. Specific information regarding the physical and health hazards, including target organ effects and the manufacturer's name and address, shall also be included on the label.

§295.6(d) – Requires that secondary container labels include the identity of the chemical appearing on the MSDS and appropriate hazard warnings, words, pictures, symbols, or combinations, which provide general information regarding the hazards of the chemicals.

§295.6(f) – Allows signs, placards, process sheets, batch tickets, operating procedures, or other such written materials to be used in lieu of affixing labels to individual stationary process containers, as long as the alternative method identifies the containers to which it is applicable and conveys the label information required by the Act.

§295.6(g) – Allows use of alternative labeling systems as specified by §§295.6(c) and (d). Examples of alternative labeling systems include the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 704m Standard, The Hazardous Materials Information Systems (HMIS) Standard, and the U.S. Department of Transportation shipping label system.

Questions About Container Labeling?

If you have questions about container labeling or other requirements of the Texas Hazard Communication Act, contact the Division for Regulatory Services, Enforcement Unit, (512) 834-6665, or www.dshs.state.tx.us/tiertwo.

Additional THCA Fact Sheets available from the Enforcement Unit:

FACT SHEET: HCB 002 Revisions to the Administrative Rules of the Texas Hazard Communication Act. Effective September 1, 1999

FACT SHEET: HCB 003 Model Written Hazard Communication Program for Public Employers in Texas

FACT SHEET: HCB 005 Workplace Chemical List

FACT SHEET: HCB 006 Standards for Current and Substitute Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs)

FACT SHEET: HCB 009 Model Employee Training Roster

FACT SHEET: HCB 017 Standards for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

**Prepared by the Texas Department of State Health Services
Division for Regulatory Services
Enforcement Unit
June 2005**