OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY · CHEMICALS

VITS

Hazard pictograms

A red-bordered diamond on the pack shows the chemical's hazard. **In a carpentry shop, a worker drank drain cleaner from a water bottle. They lost their stomach and oesophagus.**

Possible consequences

Poisoning · Chemical burn · Eye damage · Allergy & asthma · Cancer · Fire or explosion



GHS01

Explosive

Explosives and substances that may explode when heated.

E.g. fireworks, ammunition



GHS02

Flammable

Gas, aerosol, liquid or solid that can catch fire.

E.g. petrol, lamp oil



GHS03

Oxidising

May cause or intensify fire.

E.g. bleach, medical oxygen



GHS04

Gas under pressure

May explode if heated. Refrigerated gas may cause cold burns.

E.g. gas cylinders



GHS05

Corrosive

Causes severe skin burns and eye damage; may be corrosive to metals.

E.g. hydrochloric acid, ammonia



GHS06

Acute toxicity

Toxic or fatal if swallowed, in contact with skin or if inhaled.

E.g. methanol, pesticides



GHS07

Harmful, irritant

Irritates skin, eyes or airways; may cause skin allergy or drowsiness.

E.g. detergents, air fresheners



GHS08

Health hazard

May cause cancer or asthma, damage organs, fertility or the unborn child.

E.g. petrol, formaldehyde glue



GHS09

Environmental hazard

Toxic to aquatic life, with possible long-lasting effects.

E.g. pesticides, petrol



SAFETY DATA SHEET 16 sections

- Supplied free with the chemical, in your country's language.
- Your employer must make sure you can read it.
- Don't know where it is? Ask your manager.

WHAT IT CONTAINS

2 Hazards · 4 First aid · 7 Handling and storage · 8 Personal protection

The signal word "Danger" indicates a more severe hazard than "Warning".

DO

- Check all pictograms on the pack before work.
- Wear the PPE listed on the safety data sheet.
- Keep chemicals in the original pack.
- Label every container you pour into.
- Wash hands and face before eating and after work.
- Rinse eyes or skin at once with plenty of water.
  Irritants: at least 15 min; corrosives: 30 min.
- If poisoned, call a poison centre; life at risk: 112.
- Take the pack or safety data sheet to the doctor.

DON'T

- **Don't pour chemicals into drink or food containers**
  Someone could swallow them by mistake.
- **Don't eat, drink or smoke near chemicals**
  They can reach your mouth from hands or food.
- **Don't leave chemical containers open**
  Chemicals most often enter the body when breathed in.
- **Don't assume a familiar product is safe**
  Even white spirit is flammable and can be fatal if swallowed.
- **Don't mix chemicals**
  Incompatible chemicals can react with each other.
- **Don't induce vomiting in case of poisoning**
  It can do more harm than good.

REMEMBER

Know the sign. Read the data sheet. Wear PPE.

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