

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: OSHA's Revised Haz-Com Standard - "Corrosion" Pictogram

[Reference 1910.1200(f) / 1926.59(f)]

OSHA recently revised their Hazard Communication Standard to require manufacturers and distributors of hazardous chemicals and products to begin standardizing their container labels to display new features called "Pictograms". These are eight different icons used to depict distinct hazards associated with their products. Some products may have only one or two of the eight pictograms displayed on their labels, whereas more complex products may have multiple pictograms appearing on their label when the product presents multiple safety or health hazards.

Today we will discuss the specific pictogram that identifies "**Corrosion**" hazards (*see this pictogram provided on the handout provided with this toolbox talk, we recommend making copies for each trainee*). This Pictogram is specific to certain types of chemicals such as acids and bases, inorganic salts, aldehydes, phenols, and surfactants that can have a corrosive effect on skin and membranes. In addition, some highly-corrosive materials can cause metal containers to corrode and rupture, so take care not to store corrosive materials near metal containers.

So, when you see a Pictogram depicting "**Corrosion**" on a product label, refer to the hazard statement(s) that appear on that label. The corrosive effects of the material you are working with may vary, from a slight irritant to highly corrosive, and the container label can provide more information about the level of hazard you are dealing with. And pay particular attention to the Precautionary Statements appearing on the label too, as they list recommended measures that should be taken to minimize the potential for injuries or damage resulting from improper storage, use, or handling of the corrosive product or chemical. Examples of precautionary statements that may accompany products bearing the "**Corrosion**" Pictogram on the label are "Wear eye protection/face protection/hand protection/and/or protective clothing", "Do not breathe dusts or mists", and/or "Wash hands and exposed skin thoroughly after handling." You should also be aware of the location of the nearest emergency eye and/or body-wash station when working with corrosive materials. Additional information about safe use and storage of a corrosive product is also available on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the product.

This particular pictogram should help you quickly recognize potentially hazardous associated with products that are corrosive (*if possible, give specific examples of such products present at your job site*). OSHA has given manufacturers and importers of hazardous products until June 1, 2015 to make the full transition to the new labeling requirements. So in the meantime, start to watch for the "**Corrosion**" Pictogram to appear on some of the container labels here at work, and heed the warnings and specific precautions provided for use of that product.

Anyone have a question or comment about the "**Corrosion**" Pictogram that you will soon start to see on some labels? Please be sure to sign-in on the training certification form.



CORROSION

- **Skin Corrosion/Burns**
- **Eye Damage**
- **Corrosive to Metals**

