Comparison Chart of 'Old' and 'New' Chemical Labelling

We are currently in a transition between the two styles of labelling. The old hazard pictograms under the Chemical Hazard (Information and Packaging) (CHIP) Regulations are black on an orange background and square. They are being replaced by the new pictograms under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures (CLP) Regulations; these are black on a white background with red border and are diamond-shaped. They are also known as GHS (Globally Harmonised System) labels. It is still legal for supplier to use the 'old' labels until 1 June 2015.

There is no obligation on the user to relabel, but the key principle is that the contents of any container must be known and the hazards made clear. Many of the symbols are the same, but there are three new signs – see table below. There is not an exact read-across between old and new, since a given substance may be classified differently under the new rules. This does not however indicate that it has become any more or less hazardous. During the transition period, you should train workers who handle chemicals to understand the significance of both sets of labels.

Comparison Chart of Hazard Labels under CHIP and CLP			
CHIP Labelling (old)		**CLP/GHS Labelling (new)**	
Symbol	**Meaning**	**Symbol**	**Meaning**
	Toxic or very toxic.		Acute toxicity, very toxic (fatal), toxic. Example: methanol.
No exact equivalent			Gas under pressure (new sign). Example: nitrogen.
	Irritant (lower hazard than corrosive). Harmful (lower hazard than toxic).		Moderate hazard. Harmful skin irritation, serious eye irritation (new sign). Example: bleach.
	Highly flammable or extremely flammable.		Flammable gasses, flammable liquids, flammable solids, flammable aerosols, organic peroxides, self-reactive, pyrophoric, self-heating, contact with water emits flammable gas. Example: acetone.
	Explosive.		Explosive, self reactive, organic peroxide. Example: methyl ethyl ketone peroxide.

Continued on the next page

Continued from page 1

Comparison Chart of Hazard Labels under CHIP and CLP			
CHIP Labelling (old)		**CLP/GHS Labelling (new)**	
Symbol	**Meaning**	**Symbol**	**Meaning**
	Harmful to the environment.		Harmful to the environment. Example: white spirit.
	Oxidising.		Oxidising gases, oxidising liquids, oxidising solids. Example: Chlorine.
No exact equivalent			Respiratory sensitiser, mutagen, carcinogen, reproductive toxicity, systemic target organ toxicity, aspiration hazard (new sign). Example: nickel compounds.
	Corrosive.		Corrosive (causes severe skin burns and eye damage), serious eye damage. Example: sodium hydroxide.