



European  
Commission

## Key points

- ▶ Look out for new labels and safety data sheets.
- ▶ Train employees to understand and recognise the new label information.
- ▶ Check that your use of the substance or mixture is covered on the SDS and is not advised against.
- ▶ Follow the advice provided on the new labels and in safety data sheets.
- ▶ Check whether the classification has changed.
- ▶ Evaluate the risks to workers and update your workplace risk assessments if necessary.
- ▶ If you are an employer, communicate these changes to your employees.
- ▶ If you have any questions about the new label or safety data sheet, speak to your supplier.

### More information

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) website (<http://echa.europa.eu>) provides detailed guidance on the CLP regulation and the REACH regulation.

A list of Member States' national CLP helpdesks can also be found on the ECHA website.

Information on legislation to protect workers from chemicals can be found at:  
[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/employment\\_and\\_social\\_policy/health\\_hygiene\\_safety\\_at\\_work/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/employment_and_social_policy/health_hygiene_safety_at_work/index_en.htm)

Information and publications on health and safety at work can be found at:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/healthandsafety>



**Chemical labels  
are changing –  
How will this affect you?**

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ISBN 978-92-79-28354-3  
doi:10.2767/95422

Printed in Italy  
PRINTED ON ELEMENTAL CHLORINE-FREE BLEACHED PAPER (ECF)



Publications Office

ISBN 978-92-79-28354-3



9 789279 283543

doi:10.2767/95422

Social Europe

Chemical products are used every day at work, for example cleaning products, lubricants, paints and glues. Labels on these products tell us useful information about:

- ▶ the type of chemicals the product contains;
- ▶ what hazards are associated with the product;
- ▶ how to use the chemical safely.

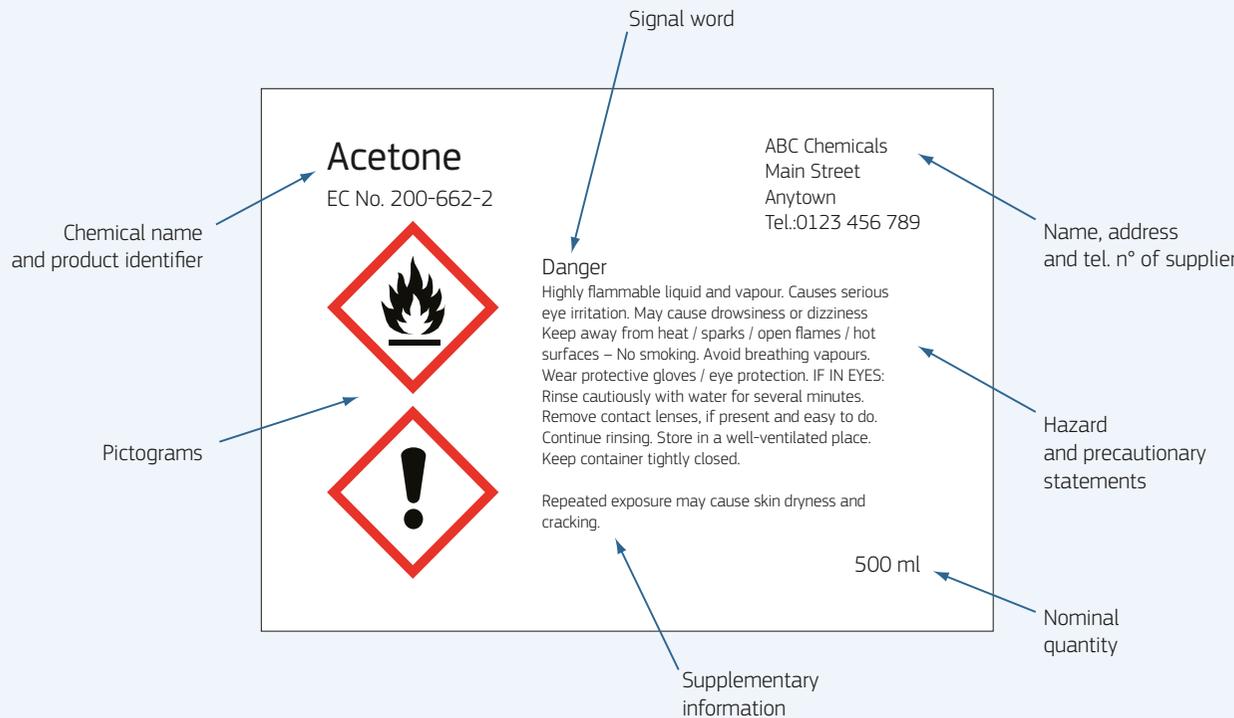
Over the next few years, new legislation, known as the CLP regulation (classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures), will change the way chemical products are classified to identify hazards and how this information is communicated on labels and safety data sheets (SDS).

The CLP regulation implements the United Nations' Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in the EU. GHS is being adopted worldwide to improve and harmonise worker and consumer safety and facilitate global trade.

**Some of the differences you may see are:**

- ▶ classification criteria and classification methods are different for some types of hazard, so some chemical products may be classified more or less severely;
- ▶ new hazard pictograms will replace danger symbols on labels;
- ▶ new wording in hazard (H) and precautionary (P) statements will replace risk (R) and safety (S) phrases;
- ▶ classifications for both the CLP and the previous legislation on SDS, and label information moved from Section 15 to Section 2 of the SDS.

**Example**



Other changes to SDS are also being made as a result of the REACH (registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemical substances) regulation.

You should look out for these changes, make sure you understand the new information and comply with any new safety instructions.

**The nine CLP pictograms**



**The three new pictograms have the following meaning:**

Type of hazard	Old symbol	New pictogram
May cause serious long-term health effects, such as carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, reproductive toxicity, respiratory sensitisation, specific target organ toxicity and aspiration hazard	 or 	
Less serious health hazards such as irritants, skin sensitisers and less severe toxicity (harmful)		
Contains gases under pressure	No symbol	