

Fact Sheet – Proper Labeling of Secondary Containers

When chemicals are purchased for a business or large institution, they often come in containers that are larger than we need for everyday use. Sometimes they are concentrated and require dilution. But when we remove chemicals from their original container, they are no longer easy to identify. A systematic approach is required to ensure that chemicals and their hazards are consistent.

What is a primary container?

A primary container refers to the original container in which hazardous material was manufactured or exported/ imported

Federal law requires them to be labeled with:

- Product identifier (its name or code number)
- Signal words (warning or danger) when they apply
- Pictogram(s) of hazards present
- Precautionary statements
- Name, address, telephone of manufacturer (importer, responsible party)
- Hazard statements



What is a secondary container?

A secondary container is any container such as (spray bottle, pan, jar, etc.) that can hold hazardous material that has been transferred from an original labeled container.

How must secondary containers be labeled?

All secondary containers shall be labeled, tagged or marked with:

- Product identifier/ chemical name in English
- General information for the hazards of the substance

What are employees responsible for?

1. Employees may only use approved secondary containers:
 - No used food containers
 - No containers that were once used for other chemicals
2. Employees must never use chemicals from an unlabeled container
3. Employees must report unlabeled containers to their manager

