

Changes to Chemical Product Labels

Some of the products that Council employees use at work may be 'dangerous for supply', including common products in everyday use such as bleach, paints, solvents or fillers. When a product is 'dangerous for supply', by law, the supplier must provide a safety data sheet and must label the product appropriately. The label should include safe use instructions and any relevant hazard symbol(s).

Over the last few years new style hazard warning symbols have appeared on some of the products used by Council staff. This is because the existing rules on labelling under CHIP¹ have gradually been replaced by CLP².

New style (CLP) symbol



Old style (CHIP) symbol



Although CLP came into force in 2009, the new and existing rules have run side by side and many manufacturers have continued use the old style CHIP hazard warning symbols on their products. The CLP symbols (or pictograms) are quite similar to the old symbols but some completely new symbols have been added. **Tables 1 to 3 show the new range of hazard symbols.** This transition period is coming to an end and from 1st June 2015 manufacturers must ensure that hazardous products entering the supply chain are marked with the CLP symbols. There are examples of product labels on page 5.

Important notes for managers and staff

- **You may still receive some products from suppliers with the old style symbols.** This is **OK** - products that are already in the supply chain ('on the shelves') with the old symbols can be sold until 1st June 2017.
- Any products with the old symbols already in use or in stock can continue to be used – **there is no need to throw products away** because they have the old style symbols.
- Managers must assess the health risks from hazardous substances under the COSHH³ regulations and take appropriate action to reduce risk. The risks from physical hazards (for example flammable liquids or gases under pressure) must also be assessed and controlled.
- **Remember** - not all hazardous substances are labelled. Some are by-products (wood dust, engine exhaust fumes) from work and others are naturally occurring (plant sap, fungi, infectious materials / diseases).

¹ "CHIP" means the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2009.

² "CLP" or "the CLP Regulation" means the European Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures.

³ The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

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Table 1

Health Hazards		
New CLP symbol	Hazard Types	Old CHIP symbol
	Harmful Irritant to skin or eyes Skin sensitizer Respiratory irritant	
	Corrosive (causes severe burns) Serious eye damage	
	Toxic Very Toxic Fatal	
	Carcinogen, Mutagen Specific organ toxicity Toxic for reproduction Respiratory sensitizer Aspiration hazard (damaging to lungs)	 or 

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Table 2

Table 2 - Physical Hazards		
New CLP symbol	Hazard Types	Old CHIP symbol
	Flammable gas, liquid or solid	
	Oxidizing gas, liquid or solids	
	Explosive	
	Corrosive to metals	None
	Gas under pressure	None

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Table 3

Environmental hazards		
New CLP symbol	Hazard Types	Old CHIP symbol
	Acute or chronic aquatic toxicity Harmful to the environment	
	Dangerous for the ozone layer Harmful to the environment	

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Example labels

