

SAFETY ALERT

November 15, 2022

Properly Label Containers of Hazardous Materials

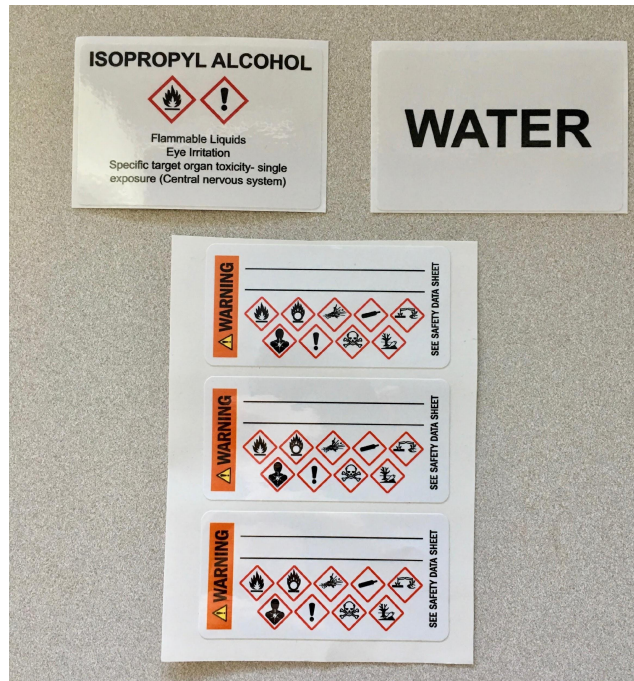
Proper identification of secondary chemical and sample containers is important for the safety of lab personnel and emergency responders. Secondary containers include beakers, flasks, squeeze bottles, and samples. Chemicals that are not properly identified could be improperly handled or mixed.

The LBNL “Chemical Hygiene and Safety Plan” identifies requirements for labeling containers of hazardous materials in laboratories: [PUB-3000 Chapter 45 Work Process Y](#).

All chemical containers should meet the following labeling requirements:

1. Chemical identification labels must be present on all primary chemical containers provided by the manufacturer. Do not remove or deface these labels.
2. When transferring chemicals, the chemical identity must also be clearly written on secondary containers such as bottles, beakers, sample containers, and squeeze bottles. The marking can be made directly on the container through the use of label tape or a commercially available label. Use a permanent ink pen.
3. The chemical name and hazard warning (flammable, corrosive, toxic, etc.) are required on secondary containers. The owner name and date are not required on secondary sample containers but are recommended.
4. There may be practical limitations to labeling small vials and tubes. An acceptable alternative is labeling of a tray or rack that holds multiple containers or a number/coding system provided that the material’s identity and hazards are readily accessible. This is by means of a lab notebook or spreadsheet available to research personnel.
5. Though labeling is not required for containers of nonhazardous materials (e.g., water), listing the material identity on the container is recommended to avoid confusion.

Secondary container labels are available on the hallway bulletin boards in Buildings 30, 62 and 70. If you have questions regarding chemical labels, contact your supervisor or the ETA Safety Manager, Ron Scholtz, at X8137.



Secondary Container Labels



NO LABEL! WHAT CAN IT CONTAIN? WATER? ACETONE?