



Safety Topic

April, 2002

TOPIC: Warning Signs & Tags

INTRODUCTION:

When a potential workplace hazard cannot be entirely eliminated, OSHA expects employers to adequately warn employees that the hazard exists and how to protect themselves. Appropriate signs and/or tags and employee training is required.



GOAL:

To ensure that employees understand hazard warning "signal words," and color coding on signs and tags.

MEETING PREPARATION:

1. Copy the attached sheet for distribution. If possible, gather sample warning signs and tags for display (the attached supplemental sheet identifies appropriate colors but actual sample warning signs and tags would be better).
2. Review past accident records and perform a walk-through of your facility. Note equipment, processes and physical areas where accidents have occurred in the past. Also note items which you believe may present a hazard to inexperienced workers.

THE MEETING:

1. Review the attached supplement with all employees. Ask for questions.
2. If you use a system of colors / numbers for hazard identification, such as the NFPA warning system or colored cylinder neck rings, review these with all employees.
3. Review the results of your walk-around and ask for comments or suggestions of where warning tags would be appropriate. This will allow employees to disclose concerns or potential problem areas without appearing to complain.
4. Give quiz and review. The answer key is: 1.False, 2.True, 3.True, 4.True, 5.a and b

FOLLOW-UP

As a result of your walk-around and meeting discussion, place warning signs and tags on equipment and work areas as necessary. Assign someone to periodically check the tags'

condition for possible replacement. (If tags / signs are exposed to the weather, inspections should be frequent.)

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Warning Signs / Tags

To be used with April 2002, Safety Topic

DANGER -- Immediate hazard presents a threat of death or serious injury. Special precautions are necessary. When you see this sign or tag, back off! Only trained experts should proceed.

Sign colors: red, black, white

Tag colors: predominately red



WARNING -- Generally used where the danger is not immediate (*potentially* hazardous), but with some probability of death or serious injury.

Tag color: predominately orange



CAUTION -- Indicates a potentially hazardous situation with possibility of minor or moderate injury or to warn against unsafe practices.

Colors: Yellow and black



NOTICE -- Indicates general instructions regarding company policy as relates to safety of employees or protection of property. It should not be associated directly with a hazard or used in place of Danger, Warning, or Caution.

Color : Predominately blue



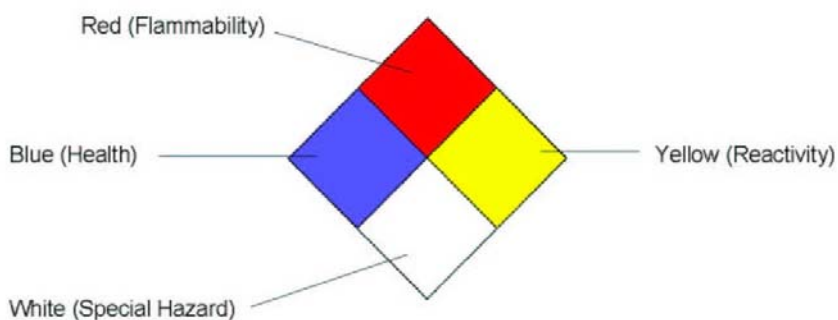
GENERAL SAFETY -- Indicates general instructions regarding safe work practices, proper

safety procedures, and safety equipment location.

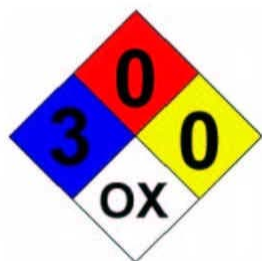
Color: Predominately green (Fire protection equipment and emergency stop switches use red.)



HAZARD INFORMATION -- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Hazardous Materials Information System (HMIS) labeling are alternative methods of labeling for in-plant containers, such as bulk tanks. Both labeling systems are similar in that they use colors to denote hazards and numbers to denote the severity of the hazards.



The numbering system places a value of 0-4 within the Health, Flammability, and Reactivity diamonds, as appropriate for the severity of the hazard. The Special Hazard diamond is used to denote oxidizers (OX) or "dangerous when wet" (W).



Sample NFPA label for a bulk tank of
Oxygen, Refrigerated Liquid

QUIZ ON WARNING SIGNS & TAGS

Employee _____ Date _____

1. This sign means that there is a slight risk of injury:



True ____ False ____

2. Emergency "STOP" switches should be painted red.

True ____ False ____

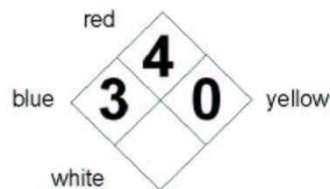
3. "DANGER," "WARNING," and "CAUTION" signs and tags mean that there is a risk of personal injury.

True ____ False ____

4. The standard color for "CAUTION" tags and signs is predominately yellow.

True ____ False ____

5. If the following symbol is attached to a product label, what are the product's hazards?



- a. the product presents a health hazard
- b. the product presents a flammability hazard
- c. the product will react with other materials
- d. the product is an oxidizer

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