

# Information for Retailers on Hazard Labelling & Packaging of Chemical Products

April 2021

**Hazardous chemical products must be labelled and packaged according to rules set out in specific classification, labelling and packaging legislation. Manufacturers, importers and formulators must ensure that such products are labelled and packaged correctly before being placed onto the market for sale. Retailers who supply chemical products do not themselves have responsibility for labelling chemicals with hazard information, unless they are selling their own brand products. As suppliers of chemicals, they are responsible for ensuring that the hazardous chemicals they sell in-store or online are correctly labelled with the relevant hazard information and packaged accordingly.**

## What is a chemical product?

A chemical product may be any chemical ranging from an everyday household cleaning chemical to a chemical for use in an industrial setting. Products include paints, lubricating oils, glues, detergents (such as drain cleaners, toilet descalers, window cleaners, oven cleaners and bleach). A chemical product may be a substance on its own for example methanol or a mixture of substances for example paints and washing detergents.

## When does a chemical product require a hazard label?

A chemical product must have this type of label when it is classified as hazardous for a physical, health and/or environmental hazard.

This kind of label with relevant information is required, by law, to allow users to identify the hazard(s) of the product. This also applies to chemical products that are sold online, where either the hazard label is shown, with a zoom function, or the relevant hazard pictogram(s) and hazard statement(s) are included in the product description.

## Who is responsible for hazard labelling?

Manufacturers, importers and downstream users (formulators) all have responsibilities in relation to the correct labelling of chemical products which are classified as hazardous. In addition, distributors, including retailers, who re-label or re-package hazardous chemicals with their own label, must ensure that the correct hazard information is on the label of the chemical product, before making it available for sale.



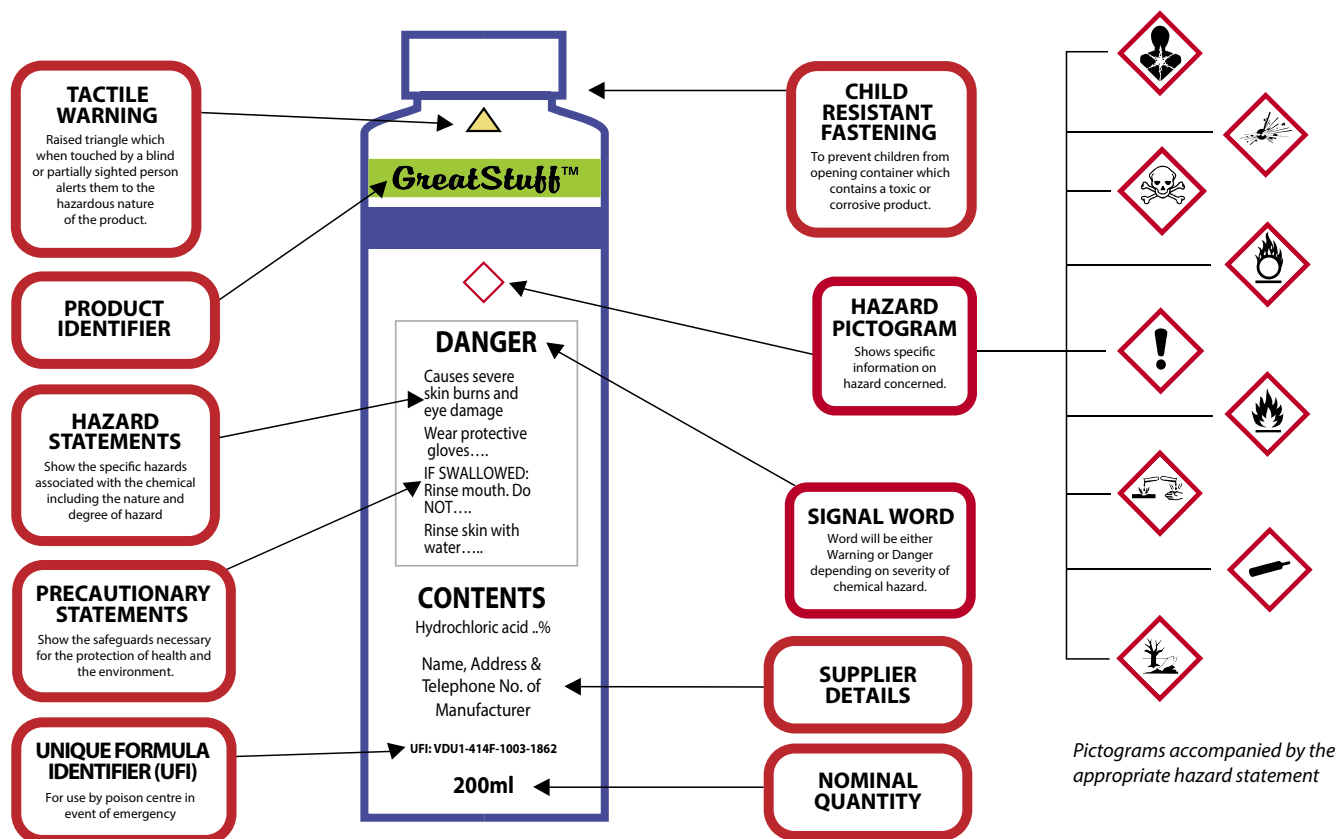
## Role of the retailer in hazard labelling

Hazardous chemicals are not permitted to be supplied on the market unless they are classified, labelled and packaged correctly. Retailers of chemical products who sell on the product for either professional use (use in the workplace) or general consumer use, should ensure that the correct hazard information is shown on the label of the product (although they themselves have not produced that product).



## What is required on a hazard label?

In Ireland, the hazard label information must be in English and must reflect the hazard(s) of the chemical product to ensure that all users, including buyers of the chemical are made aware of any hazardous properties before they purchase or use the chemical product. All hazardous chemical products such as detergents and paints must be labelled in accordance with the CLP Regulation as per example below.



## What are the packaging requirements for hazardous chemicals?

Child resistant fastenings, compliant with relevant standards, are required for products sold to the general public which are classified as toxic or corrosive. Similarly tactile warnings of danger are required on packaging of many chemical products. Packaging containing a hazardous chemical and sold to the general public is not permitted to have a shape or design which would attract the curiosity of children or which would mislead any user.

## Safety Data Sheets (SDSs):

Where the hazardous chemical product is used by professionals for example a painter/decorator, a SDS containing more detailed information on the products' hazards and how to handle and store it safely must be made available upon request.

Where there is a trade counter for professionals only and/or they have an account with the retailer, then the SDS should be provided directly either in hardcopy form or electronically.

## Further information

The Health and Safety Authority's website:

Chemicals webpages:

<http://www.hsa.ie/chemicals>

Publications pages:

<http://www.hsa.ie/publications>

Chemicals helpdesk:

[chemicals@hsa.ie](mailto:chemicals@hsa.ie)

Guidance on the website of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on labelling:

<https://echa.europa.eu/guidance-documents/guidance-on-clp>

## Further Information and Guidance:

Visit our website at [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie), telephone our contact centre on **1890 289 389** or email [wcu@hsa.ie](mailto:wcu@hsa.ie)

Use BeSMART, our free online risk assessment tool at [www.besmart.ie](http://www.besmart.ie)

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