

## TOOLBOX TALK #7

### GHS AND PICTOGRAMS

On primary containers of the products that you use, pictograms must be consistent with what OSHA has put out in their new Global Harmonized System (GHS) standard. These pictograms utilize matching symbols and color schemes. However, OSHA is more flexible with secondary container labels or workplace labels. For these labels, design and format can be modified as long as proper training is followed and the pictograms are included in the written hazard communication program.

For workplace labelling specifically, OSHA has not changed the general requirements. That means employers have the option to create their own workplace labels. They can choose to create labels in the following ways:

- Use all of the required information that is on the label provided by the chemical manufacturer.
- Use a combination of the product identifier, words, pictures and symbols to provide specific information regarding the hazards of the chemicals.

When it comes to designs, OSHA states: “If the employer chooses to use the pictograms that appear in Appendix C on the workplace (or in-plant) labels, these pictograms may have a black border, rather than a red border.”

Additionally, if the label is pre-printed with diamonds, the diamond may be colored in; however, the red cannot be visible. An “X” or other symbol through the diamond is not permitted.

Best practice is to provide pictograms and label formats that are consistent with the primary containers the product is shipped in. This reduces training time and costs, and provides a standardized approach to labeling, thus reducing potential injury and risk.

