

HEALTH & SAFETY MATTERS

August 2021 Bulletin

GOOD CHEMICAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT

STARTS HERE



DISPOSE OF YOUR OLD CHEMICALS

If you have chemicals with old "CHIP" labelling, you have been storing these since before 1 June 2015 (at the latest) when it became illegal to supply them with the old information displayed.



CHIP labels had an orange background like this

CLP labels look like this. These were introduced when CHIP was replaced by the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulations in 2010



In order to comply with the requirements of the CLP Regulation, end users need to:

- Arrange for disposal of hazardous substances that pre-date the CHIP labelling (i.e. with hazard wording only) - pre-1995!!



- Dispose of anything contained in damaged or inappropriate bottles or lids
- Dispose of any chemicals where you cannot read the labelling
- Rationalise stocks where you have multiple bottles of a substance
- Reclassify and relabel all hazardous substances that have CHIP labels with updated CLP information from the latest Safety Data Sheet. NB: You should only do this if you can justify why you cannot dispose of it.

STORE YOUR CHEMICALS SAFELY

Store like with like

Safety Data Sheets are available for all hazardous substances and contain information on how it should be stored safely. This includes details of incompatible materials that must not be stored together and conditions to avoid.

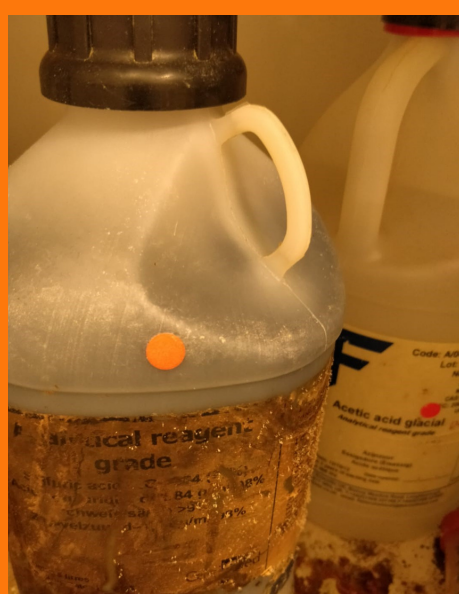
There is also information on the University webpages to help you decide which storage cabinet is most suitable.

You must have a process in place to ensure necessary checks are performed on certain materials, e.g. chemicals that must be:-

- stored under an inert gas
- checked regularly to ensure conditions are right to prevent it becoming unstable
- locked away to prevent unauthorised access

Always ensure that bottles are stored upright and are unlikely to fall

Examples of poor practice:-



KEEP YOUR CHEMICAL INVENTORY UP TO DATE

Chemicals can accumulate in laboratories over time if you do not manage your chemical stocks and inventory records effectively.

Knowing what you have in the lab can:

- reduce risk (as required by COSHH)
- provide vital information in the event of an emergency
- help you reduce what you already have stored
- prevent over-ordering, saving you money
- help you to manage the space needed to store your hazardous substances
- help to reduce the amount needed to be disposed of, saving your department money

Ask whether there is existing material before you place an order, and don't buy larger quantities than you need.

For certain chemicals, we are legally required to maintain stock and usage records and to provide annual returns to regulators.

A Chemical Inventory tool is coming soon. Ensure your inventories are kept up to date to assist with the movement of data.

CONSIDER THE HIERARCHY OF CONTROL WHEN ORDERING: ELIMINATE, SUBSTITUTE, REDUCE