

ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT



Developed by

Robert Bastianon, Fire Inspector
Approved by

Roger Meagor, Fire Chief

Fire Protection Standard 309

Placard and Labeling Requirements

Date: 8/5/08

Revision: _____

Page: 1 of 1

The purpose of this standard shall provide guidance to facilities and businesses which are required to post placards or labels for hazard identification as directed by the Ross Valley Fire Department, in designing the appropriate size and/or design of the placard or label. This standard has been developed pursuant to provision of the California Fire Code as adopted by the Ross Valley Fire Department.

I. Where Required

Placards and labels shall be clearly posted in the following locations and/or as required by the Ross Valley Fire Department.

Placards

1. At all main entrances to facilities and buildings that use, store or process hazardous materials or reporting quantities.
2. On entry gates or fences to facilities, buildings and exterior storage areas.
3. At the entrances to inside storage rooms or designated storage areas.
4. Entrances to cylinder (pressurized or cryogenic) storage areas.
5. On all parked trailers and/or cargo vehicles and shipping containers (see transport containers) which are used for temporary and/or permanent storage of hazardous materials.

Labels

1. On all drums and/or tanks 30 gallon capacity or larger.
2. On all approved storage cabinets.
3. On all pressurized cylinders greater than 200 cu. Ft. capacity.
4. On all liquefied gases in excess of 150 gallon capacity.

II. Placard and Label Specifications

1. All labels and placards shall utilize the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) color coded hazard warning system.
2. The numerical hazard rating shall comply with NFPA hazard rating index shown in

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Page: 2 of 2

Figure 2. The hazard rating may be designated reviewing the Material Safety Data sheets or by contacting the Ross Valley Fire Department Fire Prevention Division.

3. Placards and labels shall be constructed of weather proof/resistant backings and materials.
4. Dimensions shall not be less than that specified in Figure 1.
5. The numerical hazard rating shall be black in color.
6. Diamond colors shall be blue, red, yellow and white representing Health, Fire, Reactivity and Other, respectively as indicated in Figure 1.
7. Additional information should be included in the white diamond of the placard, when necessary to indicate special information about the hazards. See special abbreviation section in Figure 3.
8. The color of diamonds on the placard shall be as indicated in Figure 1.

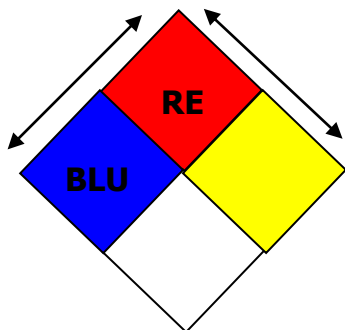
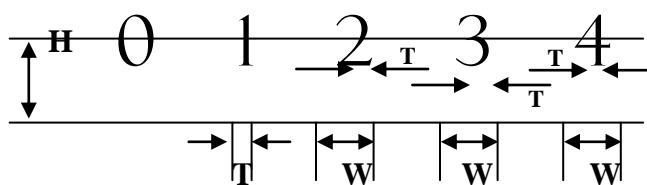


Figure 1



DIMENSIONS IN INCHES

| | | A | H | W | T |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| Placards | 12 | 5 | 3 | 3/4 | 3/8 |
| Labels | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1/2 |

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Page: 3 of 3

Figure 2

Identification of Health Hazard

Identification of Flammability

Identification of Reactivity

Color Code: Blue

Color Code: Red

(Stability) Color Code: Yellow

| Signal | Type of Possible Injury | Signal | Susceptibility of Materials to Burning | Signal | Susceptibility to Release of Energy |
|----------|--|----------|---|----------|---|
| 4 | Materials that on very short exposure could cause death or major residual injury. | 4 | Materials that will rapidly or completely vaporize at atmospheric pressure and normal ambient temperature, or that are readily dispersed in air and that will burn readily. | 4 | Materials that in themselves are readily capable of detonation or of explosive decomposition or reaction at normal temperatures and pressures. |
| 3 | Materials that on short exposure could cause serious temporary or residual injury. | 3 | Liquids and solids that can be ignited under almost all ambient temperature conditions | 3 | Materials that in themselves are capable of detonation or explosive decomposition or reaction but require a strong initiating source or which must be heated under confinement before initiation or which react explosively with water. |
| 2 | Materials that on intense or continued but not chronic exposure could cause temporary incapacitation or possible residual injury | 2 | Materials that must be moderately heated or exposed to relatively heated or exposed to relatively high ambient temperatures before ignition can occur. | 2 | Materials that readily undergo violent chemical change at elevated temperatures and pressures or which react violently with water or which may form explosive mixtures with water. |
| 1 | Materials that on exposure would cause irritation but only minor residual injury. | 1 | Materials that must be pre-heated before ignition can occur. | 1 | Materials that in themselves are normally stable, but which can become unstable at elevated temperatures and pressures. |
| 0 | Materials that on exposure under fire conditions would offer no hazard beyond that of ordinary combustible material | 0 | Materials that will not burn. | 0 | Materials that in themselves are normally stable, even under fire exposure conditions, and which are not reactive with water. |

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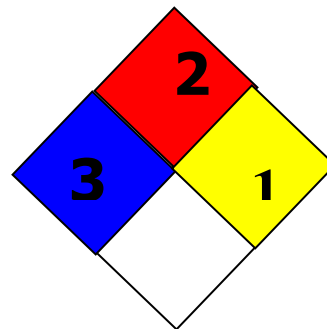
Date: 8/5/08

Revision: _____

Page: 4 of 4

Figure 3

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| OXIDIZERS | = | OXY |
| CORROSIVES | = | COR |
| <i>ACIDS</i> | = | <i>ACID</i> |
| RADIOACTIVE | = | RAD |
| WATER REACTIVE | = | W |
| EXPLOSIVE | = | EXP |
| PYROPHORIC | = | PYR |
| POISON | = | TOX |



III. Placard and Label Manufacturers/Distributors

To assist businesses/facilities in obtaining manufactured placards and labels, the following companies have indicated that they carry and distribute these products. The Ross Valley Fire Department and its employees do not endorse nor recommend any particular distributor or company. Any person or firm not on the list may be added by contacting the Hazardous Materials Division.

Lab Safety Supply
 P.O. Box 1368
 Janesville, WI 53547-1368
 (800) 356-0783

Fire Safety Supply, Inc.
 468 Yolanda Ave.
 Santa Rosa, CA 95407
 (707) 575-9117

Granger
 Specialty Products Division
 1250 Busch Parkway
 Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
 (800) 521-5585

BWS Distributors, Inc.
 1849 Piner Road.
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401
 (800) 862-4685