

# Hazardous Waste Labeling



## Overview

In response to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hazardous waste regulatory policy changes for academic laboratories, Weill Cornell Medicine is implementing the federal mandates **effective July 1, 2019**. Under the new rule, **all** hazardous waste containers must be marked with the words “Hazardous Waste” **and** indicate the hazard(s) associated with the waste contents. The new rules aim to help generators improve their management of hazardous waste, as well as protect the environment.

To comply with the updated regulation, Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) has designed new labels for hazardous waste and hazardous radioactive waste, which include OSHA’s Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) pictogram as hazard indicators. These new labels will replace the old yellow hazardous waste and hazardous radioactive waste labels; and standardize all hazardous waste labels that are to be used on every container of chemical waste. This EHS Update provides guidance on marking the new hazardous waste label using OSHA’s GHS hazard pictogram indicators.

The disposal procedures outlined in this update must be followed in conjunction with EHS Program Manual [5.2- Waste Disposal Procedures](#).

## Applicability

All faculty, students, staff, visitors, and contractors at WCM who intend to dispose of chemicals must strictly adhere to the procedures identified in this update.

## Responsibilities

**Hazardous Waste Generators (generators)** ensure that chemicals and empty containers are properly discharged, disposed of, recycled, and/or otherwise processed in compliance with this update and [WCM’s Waste Disposal Procedures](#). Generators must obtain all reference materials (e.g., Safety Data Sheets, EHS resources) to properly identify the hazard(s) of chemical wastes prior to disposing of chemicals and/or empty containers.

**WCM Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)** assists WCM personnel, providing technical assistance and guidance on hazardous waste management and disposal. EHS also ensures that the information provided to generators is concurrent with the laws and regulations governing the specific means of disposal.

Note: for specifics on hazardous waste disposal, please refer to the EHS Program Manual [5.2- Waste Disposal Procedures](#), or contact EHS.

## Procedures

### NEW HAZARDOUS WASTE LABEL

The new hazardous waste label, pictured on the right, must identify all hazardous waste generated at WCM.

Label components include:

- The words “Hazardous Waste”
- Contact name, contact number, principal investigator
- Hazard characteristics and GHS pictograms
- Each chemical constituent in the container

**You may request printed labels from EHS or download printer-friendly labels from our [website](#).**



**Environmental Health and Safety**

TEL 646-962-7233 WEB [weill.cornell.edu/ehs](http://weill.cornell.edu/ehs) EMAIL [ehs@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ehs@med.cornell.edu)

Weill Cornell Medicine | 402 East 67th Street, Room LA-0020 | New York, NY 10065












## GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM (GHS) CHEMICAL HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

The new hazardous waste labels incorporate the Global Harmonized System (GHS) pictograms indicated with red border below.

The icons on the label consist of:

- Flame pictogram for flammable liquids and solids
- Corrosion pictogram for corrosive substances
- Skull & crossbones pictogram for toxic substances
- Exploding bomb pictogram for unstable and/or reactive chemicals
- Health hazard pictogram for non-acutely hazardous substances

<b>Health Hazard</b> Carcinogens, respiratory sensitisers, reproductive toxicity, target organ toxicity, germ cell mutagens 	<b>Flame</b> Flammable gases, liquids, & solids; self-reactives; pyrophorics; 	<b>Exclamation Mark</b> Irritant, dermal sensitiser, acute toxicity (harmful) 
<b>Gas Cylinder</b> Compressed gases; liquefied gases; dissolved gases 	<b>Corrosion</b> Skin corrosion; serious eye damage 	<b>Exploding Bomb</b> Explosives, self-reactives, organic peroxides 
<b>Flame Over Circle</b> Oxidisers gases, liquids and solids 	<b>Environment</b> Aquatic toxicity 	<b>Skull &amp; Crossbones</b> Acute toxicity (severe) 

## HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTAINER LABELING REQUIREMENTS

When labeling chemical waste, please follow these guidelines, shown on the sample label below.







- The hazardous waste label must be attached to the container when it is initially used for waste (i.e., when the first drop is added).
- The individual generating the waste must complete the label; listing his/her contact information, as well as principal investigator.
- Wastes that are commingled must list all components in the contents section, including water and all trace materials. Approximate percentages (%) should be provided if possible for each component of the mixture.
- All components must be listed as soon as they are added to the container. The full name of the chemical must be listed (e.g., Waste Oil, Ethanol, Acetone, etc.). The appropriate box(es) must be checked for the hazard(s) associated with each component present in the waste container. To determine hazards, refer to the original reagent container labels and/or the SDS.
- Note: For more information, please refer to the EHS Program Manual [4.2- Chemical Hazard Communication](#).*
- All information on the label must be legible and accurate. The information on the label is essential to categorizing and packing the waste for final disposal.
- Once the container is full, a [Chemical Collection Request](#) should be placed on the EHS website to ensure prompt pickup. Waste pickups occur every Tuesday and Thursday.

### HAZARDOUS WASTE

Weill Cornell Medicine

Contact Name: <b>Jack Smith</b>	Contact Number: <b>123-456-7891</b>
Principal Investigator: <b>Dr. Jane Doe</b>	

Hazard Characteristics (check all that apply):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/> 
Flammable	Corrosive	Toxic	Reactive	Health Hazard	Other

Chemical Name(s): **Methanol (30%), Acetic Acid (25%), Acetonitrile (25%), Water (20%)**

## SAMPLE LABEL

For assistance, contact Environmental Health and Safety  
646-962-7233    ehs@med.cornell.edu    https://ehs.weill.cornell.edu







## References

- **USEPA Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule:** <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-28/pdf/2016-27429.pdf>
- [40 CFR 260](#) & [49 CFR Part 172](#)
- **OSHA Hazard Communication:** <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom>
- **EHS Manual 5.2 – Waste Disposal Procedures:** [https://ehs.weill.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/5.2wastedisposal\\_0.pdf](https://ehs.weill.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/5.2wastedisposal_0.pdf)
- **EHS Hazardous Waste Labels:** <https://ehs.weill.cornell.edu/forms-resources/labels-lists-signs>