



# SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN



## CHEMICAL LABELING REQUIREMENTS – NEW JERSEY RIGHT TO KNOW

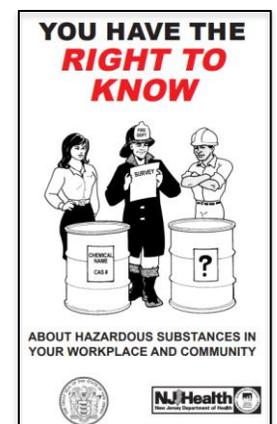
The New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act requires public and private employers to provide information about hazardous substances at their workplaces. The Act informs public employees about chemical hazards at their workplace so they can work safely with these hazardous substances; it helps firefighters, police, and other emergency responders adequately plan for and respond to incidents such as fires, explosions, or spills, and provides data for monitoring and tracking hazardous substances in the workplace and the environment.

Proper labeling ensures that all employees can accurately identify chemicals, understand potential hazards, and handle substances safely. This supports regulatory compliance and helps prevent workplace accidents. For questions or further guidance, please contact your supervisor or your Right to Know Safety Consultant.

Please review the following labeling requirements for chemicals in the workplace to ensure compliance with the New Jersey Right to Know regulations (General Provisions N.J.A.C. 8:59-5.1 and 5.2) and to promote workplace safety.

### Key Requirements

- Identification:
  - All chemicals must be labeled with their exact chemical names and Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) numbers. Container labels must list the chemical name and CAS number of the five most predominant chemical ingredients in the container, whether they are hazardous or non-hazardous. This practice is known as "universal labeling".
  - Any hazardous ingredients not among the top five must also be listed on the label, unless they are present at less than 1%, or less than 0.1% for carcinogens, mutagens, and teratogens.
  - Refer to the product manufacturers' Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for chemical ingredients and CAS numbers.
  
- Container And Materials Labeling
  - Secondary containers must be labeled in accordance with all label components that are required on the original container. Labels for secondary containers can be acquired from the manufacturer or can be created using information gathered in the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
  - Shelf labeling refers to the practice of placing a single label on a shelf, rack, or storage area to identify the chemicals, products, or materials stored there, rather than labeling each container. Shelf labeling is generally not permitted by the NJ Department of Health.
  - For bulk storage areas, such as a salt barn, identification and labeling of the material should be posted in a location where it can easily be seen by employees and visitors approaching the storage area and not obstructed by equipment or other materials.



## Petroleum Products

The Department of Health will allow petroleum products to be labeled with the following names without CAS numbers:

- Motor oil
- Automatic Transmission Fluid
- Brake Fluid
- Fuel Oil
- Diesel Fuel
- Grease, gear oil, hydraulic oil, etc., should say the name combined with “Petroleum oil”, e.g., “Petroleum Oil Grease”.

If the petroleum oil contains other hazardous substances other than petroleum oil, those materials must be included on the label with the appropriate CAS number.

## Valves and Outlets

Valves, outlets, and drains that allow a release of a substance into the environment must be labeled with the name and CAS number. This situation is commonly found in water and wastewater treatment plants and vehicle maintenance garages.

NAME	CAS#
Hydroquinone	123-31-9
Paraformaldehyde	30525-89-4
Sodium Methanal Bisulfite	870-72-4
Triethylene Glycol	112-27-6
Water	7732-18-5
Sodium Sulfite	7757-83-7

*Sample RTK Label*

## Contractors

If a subcontractor brings in chemicals to a public employer’s facility, those materials must be labeled per all NJ Right to Know requirements.

## Action Steps

1. Review all chemical containers in your work area.
2. Purchasing chemicals properly labeled will eliminate the need for additional labeling, or verbiage should be added to any purchase order requiring the company to provide the required labeling.
3. Ensure all hazardous chemicals are labeled with the chemical name and CAS number for the five most predominant ingredients and any hazardous ingredients as required.
4. Report any unlabeled or improperly labeled containers to your supervisor immediately.