

## **FAQ: Biochrom AG introduces new hazard labels**

Information from Biochrom AG, January 17, 2011

Since December 2010, substances need to be labelled using new hazard symbols based on an international standardised system in order to comply with the EU regulation on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). After a certain transitional period, previously used symbols, such as the black skull and crossbones on orange background, may no longer be used. From 2015, mixtures need to be labelled in a standardised manner and in accordance with the new system.

The new hazard symbols feature red diamond frames with black symbols on a white background. The previous symbols (pictograms) are added by some new ones, while certain symbols (such as the X symbol with its many different meanings) no longer apply. Beneath the hazard pictograms, you may additionally find the signal words "warning" or "danger". The new system features more criteria to rate hazards and new classification criteria. This may lead to the fact that certain products are classified differently with regard to the hazards they pose. H statements (hazard statements) and P statements (precautionary statements) replace the R and S phrases that have been used in the past.

Biochrom AG is already using the new system for its substances and mixtures of substances, such as collagenase, trypsin and HEPES dry substance. During the transitional period, classification and labelling of mixtures will then be phased in to the new system as well. The most important facts on labelling hazardous materials can be found in this FAQ.

### **1. Why has the previous and proven system been revised?**

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) has been implemented with the intention to reach a standardised manner to label of substances on a worldwide scale. For in the past, substances had been labelled differently, possibly leading to misunderstandings. In 1992, the United Nations thus decided to set up a globally harmonised classification and labelling system for substances. In the meantime, the GHS has been transposed into EU legislation by implementing an EU regulation (CLP regulation).

### **2. What does CLP stand for?**

The CLP regulation is the new EU regulation on **C**lassification, **L**abelling and **P**ackaging of chemical substances and mixtures. Within the European Union (EU), all chemicals have to be classified and labelled in accordance with this regulation. The CLP regulation is based on the GHS.

### **3. How do GHS and the CLP regulation differ?**

The CLP regulation is legally binding for EU member states, whereas the GHS is not legally binding.

GHS and the CLP regulation are not identical, as the basis of the CLP regulation does additionally include previous EU classification and labelling legislation.

### **4. When did the CLP regulation take effect?**

The CLP regulation took effect in 2009 and applies to all EU member states. It gradually replaces the dangerous substances directive 67/548/EEC, as well as the dangerous preparations directive 1999/45/EC, which will be no longer in force from June 2015.

The transitional period of the CLP regulation on substances has already ended: all substances need to be labelled in accordance with the new system since December 1, 2010. For mixtures (solutions), however, the CLP regulation on labelling will become binding only as from June 1, 2015. In both cases, users will be able to continue selling stocks with outdated labels for two more years.

**5. What Biochrom AG products are concerned by the new labelling criteria?**

Antibiotics, enzymes and buffers from Biochrom AG are being labelled according to the new system (goods in stock may be labelled with outdated symbols until 2012). For Biochrom AG's sterile liquids, such as buffers and solutions, the transitional period applies (until 2015). This accounts for the fact that labels for lots of one product may differ.

**6. What aspects do I need to consider as a user?**

In accordance with the new CLP regulation, some substances may be classified differently now. In any case, users should continue to deal with substances with due caution. Please remember: Obtain detailed information and prepare your protective equipment before dealing with the substance. You will find up-to-date information on the respective substance in the safety data sheet, which each manufacturer has to provide.

**7. I still possess Biochrom AG products with outdated labels. Can I still use them?**

Yes, you may continue to use them. All updated safety data sheets include both the new and the previous labelling of the products, as well as information on how to deal with them. You may download safety data sheets on our homepage at: [www.biochrom.de](http://www.biochrom.de).

**8. Where do I find classification data for a product that has been labelled using the new symbols?**

Biochrom AG's safety data sheets include both the new and the previous labelling. You may access and download these safety data sheets on the Biochrom AG homepage. Databases such as euSDB (see References) allow users to access safety data sheets from a wide range of manufacturers.

**9. The new safety data sheet version for Biochrom AG products looks completely different now. What data do the new safety data sheets include?**

The safety data sheets have been revised, as the CLP regulation classifies and labels hazards differently. Until 2015, each safety data sheet has to include both the new and the previous labelling. In addition, the data sheets include major figures in order to allow for a reliable identification, such as the CAS or EC number of a substance. A further innovation is the fact that necessary protective equipment is being labelled using respective symbols.

**10. Where do I find Biochrom AG's safety data sheets?**

You can access Biochrom AG's safety data sheets on our homepage. In addition to detailed product information, you can access the respective safety data sheet for each product. You may use the following link in order to search for a certain safety data sheet, entering the catalogue number of the product: <http://www.biochrom.de/en/service/safety-data-sheets/>

**11. What do I need to do in case of poisoning symptoms?**

If you are located in Germany, you may use the poison centre hotline that Biochrom AG has set up. The poison centre is available 24 hours a day, seven days week:

GIZ-Nord – Giftinformationszentrum-Nord, Göttingen

Phone: +49 (0)551-383180 or via e-mail: [giznord@giz-nord.de](mailto:giznord@giz-nord.de)

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If you are located outside of Germany, please contact a poison centre or a physician in your respective country.

## References

- **Biochrom AG safety data sheets, search feature:**  
<http://www.biochrom.de/en/service/safety-data-sheets/>
- **overview on Biochrom AG's safety data sheets** (search index for safety data sheets, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, department for occupational safety, project euSDB) <http://www.eusdb.de/en/search/results>
- information from the Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment), „Neue Gefahrenkennzeichnungen auf Verpackungen“ (new hazard labelling on packaging), Berlin 2008  
[www.bfr.bund.de/cm/238/neue\\_gefahrenkennzeichnungen\\_auf\\_verpackungen.pdf](http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/238/neue_gefahrenkennzeichnungen_auf_verpackungen.pdf)  
(data available only in German)
- Berufsgenossenschaft der chemischen Industrie (BG Chemie, the German institution for statutory accident insurance and prevention in the chemical industry) 2011: GHS – Global Harmonisiertes System zur Einstufung und Kennzeichnung von Chemikalien (GHS - Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals)  
<http://www.bgchemie.de/REACH-GHS> (data available only in German)