

# **Know Your Product Labels!**



Did you know that South Africa has implemented the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS) for hazardous chemical products which includes crop protection products e.g. fungicides, insecticides and herbicides?

The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) is an international system that the United Nations created for the unified classification and labelling of chemicals.

# What's on the label?

#### Signal words:

A signal word is used to indicate the product's relative level of severity.

- Danger: Indicates more severe hazards
- · Warning: Indicate less severe hazards.

#### 2 Hazard statements:

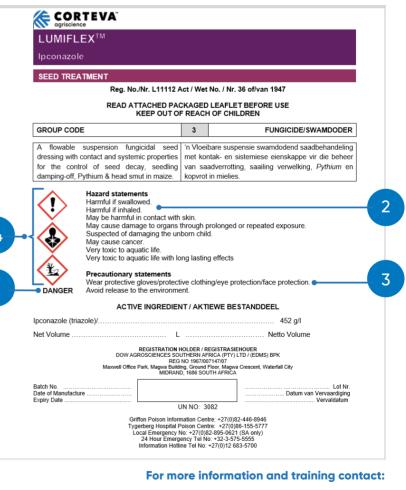
A statement assigned to a hazard class and category that describes the nature of the hazards of a pesticide.

#### 3 Precautionary statements:

A phrase that describes recommended measures that should be taken to minimise or prevent adverse effects, resulting from exposure, handling or improper storage of a pesticide.

#### Hazard symbols:

Pictograms are used to identify hazardous products and are commonly grouped by chemical, physical, health and/or environmental risk.



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Hazard symbols according to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS).

#### Flame



Gases, aerosols, liquids, or solids that will burn or ignite under certain conditions.

## Flame Over Circle



Substance is an oxidizer. Oxidizers may cause a fire by increasing the concentration of oxygen in the air.

## Environment

Corrosion



Pesticide may present aquatic toxicity.

## **Exclamation Mark**

- Irritant-irritates the skin or eyes
- Skin sensitizer-an allergic response following skin contact.
- Acute toxicity-which may be fatal or cause organ damage from a single short-term exposure.

#### **Skull And Crossbones**

Substances with a hazard of acute toxicity. Acute toxicity means that exposure to a single dose of the chemical may be toxic or fatal if inhaled or swallowed, or if it comes into contact with the skin.



Substance causes skin burns, eye

damage, or destroys

metals.



Substance is a compressed, liquefied, or dissolved gas under pressure.

# **Exploding Bomb**



- Explosives-which is a solid or liquid chemical capable of a chemical reaction that causes damage to the surroundings.
- Self-Reactive heating may cause fire or explosion without the need for air.
- Organic peroxides- heating may cause fire or explosion.

# **Health Hazard**



- Carcinogen-may cause cancer
- Reproductive toxicity-may damage
  Mutagenicity-may cause fertility or the unborn child
- Respiratory sensitizer-may damage to bodily organs cause respiratory irritation
- Target organ toxicity-may cause
- genetic defects
  - Aspiration toxicity-may be fatal if swallowed and it enters the airways

