

Understanding Hazard Symbols and Precautionary Pictogramson Pesticides Used in Ghana

Every chemical is poisonous depending on how it is regulated or used – that is how it is manufactured, stored, transported and applied. This information pictogram serves as a guide to help policy makers to know what pesticides to allow entry, purchase, distribution and/or use within their mandate area while serving as a tool for frontline extension agents to educate farmers on appropriate precautions to take and proper usage.

Hazard symbols under the Globally Harmonized System

Health Hazard



- Carcinogen
- Mutagenicity
- Reproductive Toxicity
- Respiratory Sensitizer
- Target Organ Toxicity
- Aspiration Toxicity

Flame



- Flammables
- Pyrophorics
- Self-Heating
- Emits Flammable Gas
- Self-Reactives
- Organic Peroxides

Exclamation Mark



- Irritant (skin and eye)
- Skin Sensitizer
- Acute Toxicity (harmful)
- Narcotic Effects
- Respiratory Tract Irritant
- Hazardous to Ozone Layer (Non-Mandatory)

Gas Cylinder



- Gases Under Pressure

Corrosion



- Skin Corrosion/ Burns
- Eye Damage
- Corrosive to Metals

Exploding Bomb



- Explosives
- Self-Reactives
- Organic Peroxides

Flame Over Circle



- Oxidizers

Environment (Non-Mandatory)

















- Aquatic Toxicity

Skull and Crossbones



- Acute Toxicity
(fatal or toxic)

Precautionary pictograms with messages that appear on labels

Type	Pictogram and message		
Storage pictograms	 Keep locked away and out of reach of children		
Activity pictograms	 When handling liquid concentrate...	 When handling dry concentrate...	 When applying pesticide...
Advice pictograms	 Wear gloves	 Wear eye protection	 Wear rubber boots
	 Wear protection over nose and mouth	 Wear respirator	
	 Wear overalls	 Wear apron	 Wash after use
Warning pictograms	 Dangerous/harmful to animals	 Dangerous/harmful to fish- do not contaminate lakes, rivers, ponds or streams	

About SAIRLA

SAIRLA is a UK Department for International Development-funded initiative that seeks to address one of the most intractable problems facing small-holder farmers in Africa – how to engage in the market economy and to deliver sustainable intensification of agriculture which avoids negative impacts on the environment. The programme is managed by WYG International Ltd and the Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich. For more information visit: www.sairla.nri.org

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