



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 05 – 33

LABELING OF CONTAINERS – HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENT

WHAT HAPPENED:

An employee transferred methanol from a storage drum to a plastic drinking water container marked for drinking water. The container was then stored in the side box of the employee's truck. The employee forgot that he had placed methanol in the drinking water container, and on the following day he drank from the container. He was rushed to the hospital and treated for methanol poisoning.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Material was transferred into a container that was not properly labeled for the material.
2. A drinking water bottle was used to store a hazardous material without the label being changed to show the actual contents.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following control statement:

1. Drinking water containers must never be used for anything other than drinking water.
2. All secondary containers must be labeled according to requirements established in the company's HSE Labeling – Standard. This standard contains the following requirements:
 - a. All chemical containers in the workplace must be labeled.
 - b. Original or portable product containers that will be transported or shipped must have labels containing the following information:
 - I. Name and address of the chemical manufacturer or distributor
 - II. Name of the product – must be identical to the name on the MSDS
 - III. Appropriate physical and health warning statements
 - IV. Shipping information when applicable
 - c. Portable containers that will not be transported or shipped must be labeled with the following information:
 - I. Name of the product – must be identical to the name on the MSDS
 - II. Appropriate physical and health warning statements
 - d. Portable containers into which hazardous chemicals are transferred from labeled containers and are intended only for the immediate use (during the work shift) by the employee who performs the transfer must be marked with at least the name of the chemical.

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices

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