

Guidance on labelling requirements for regulated poisons and explosives precursors

If you intend to supply any products containing one of the poisons or explosives precursors above the concentration listed below to a member of the general public:

Regulated Explosives Precursors

Substance	Concentration w/w
Hydrogen peroxide	12%
Nitromethane	30% (or 24 % vol)
Nitric acid	3%
Sodium chlorate	40%
Sodium perchlorate	40%
Potassium chlorate	40%
Potassium perchlorate	40%
Sulfuric acid	15%

Regulated Poisons

Substance	Concentration w/w
Aluminium phosphide	-
Arsenic; its compounds, other than those listed in Part 4 of Schedule 1A	-

Barium, salts of, other than barium sulphate and the salts of barium listed in Part 4 of Schedule 1A)	-
Bromomethane	-
Chloropicrin	-
Fluoroacetic acid; its salts; fluoroacetamide	-
Hydrogen cyanide; metal cyanides, other than ferrocyanides and ferricyanides	-
Lead acetates; compounds of lead with acids from fixed oils	-
Magnesium phosphide	-
Mercury, compounds of, the following—nitrates of mercury; oxides of mercury; mercuric cyanide oxides; mercuric thio cyanate; ammonium mercuric chlorides; potassium mercuric iodides; organic compounds of mercury that contain a methyl (CH ₃) group directly linked to the mercury atom	-
Oxalic acid	10% w/w
Phenols (phenol; phenolic isomers of the following—cresols, xylenols,	60% w/w of phenols or, for compounds of phenols with a metal, the equivalent of 60% w/w of phenols

monoethylphenols); compounds of phenols with a metal	
Phosphorus, yellow	-
Strychnine; its salts; its quaternary compounds	-
Thallium, salts of	-

you must ensure that the product is labelled with the following text:

Acquisition, possession or use by the general public is restricted

This is in accordance with the Poisons Act 1972.

It is the responsibility of the supplier who intends to make available restricted precursors to the general public to ensure that the restriction is clearly indicated on the packaging. This can be by affixing the appropriate label or by verifying that such a label is affixed.



One simple way to implement this requirement may be through a supply chain collaboration. Commercial contracts between suppliers and retailers could be used to agree that relevant information on the presence and concentration of regulated substances is shared between suppliers and retailers. The economic operator packaging the product prior to the product's entry into the market for the general public is best placed to affix the required label.

Most of the products that require labelling according to the Poisons Act 1972 will also need to be labelled according to EU Regulation 1272/2008 Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures (CLP) due to their inherent hazardous properties. Article 32((6) of CLP states that:

“Label elements resulting from the requirements provided for in other Community acts shall be placed in the section for supplemental information on the label referred to in Article 25.”

This means labelling required by the Poisons Act 1972 should be placed in the section for supplemental information within the CLP label on products that fall within the scope of CLP.

Example label for hydrogen peroxide, 30%:

		Superoxy 30 Hydrogen peroxide 30%	HP products Ltd Peroxyroad 5 1122 ZZ Bleach United Kingdom Phone: +44-6789123
DANGER			Net content 500 ml.
Causes serious eye damage. Harmful if swallowed.			
Wear eye protection. Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product. IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. Immediately call a POISON CENTER or physician. Dispose of contents to environmental station.			
Acquisition, possession or use by the general public is restricted.			

Non-compliance with the new labelling requirement is a criminal offence.

Any business found guilty of supplying or selling a regulated substance to a member of the general public without first ensuring that a warning label is affixed to the packaging in which the regulated substance is supplied is liable on summary conviction in a Magistrates Court to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.