

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF
DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY
HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION
AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS**

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally
Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals

Sixteenth session,
Geneva, 10 -12 (a.m) December 2008
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

HAZARD COMMUNICATION ISSUES

GHS symbols

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat reproduces hereafter a letter from the chairman of the Technical Committee 145/SC 2 of the International Standardization Organization (ISO/TC 145/SC 2) on the need for harmonization between ISO and GHS symbols.

Graphical symbols used in labels for hazardous substances and mixtures

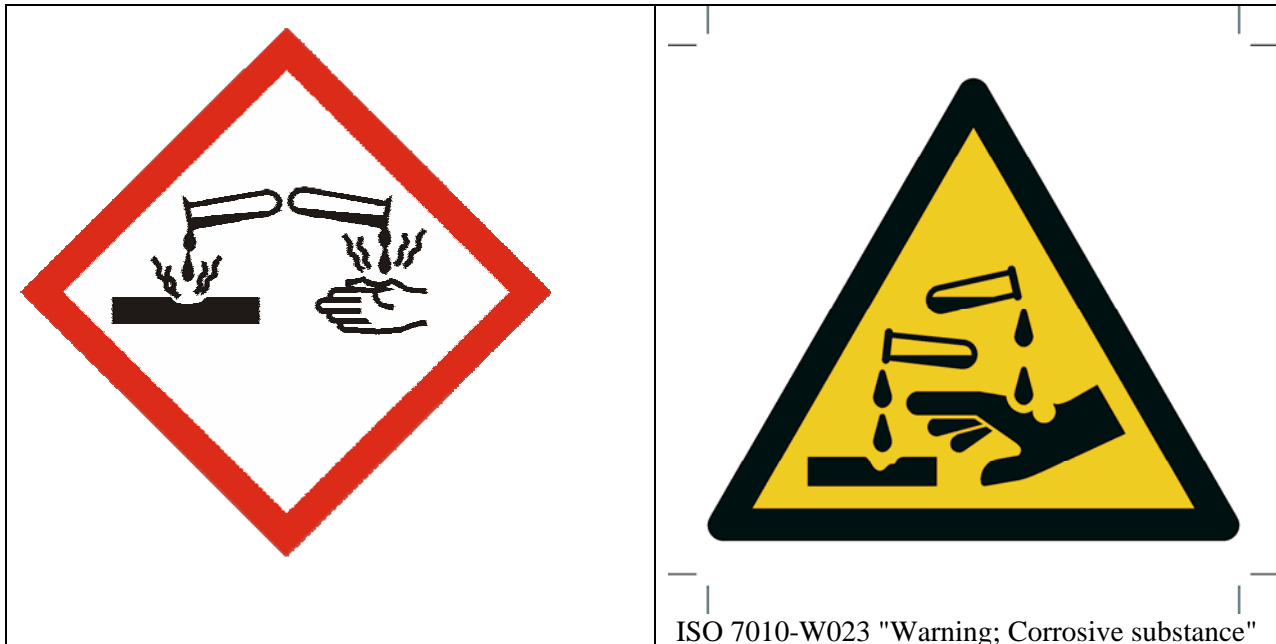
Dear Mr. Kervella,

I am writing to you in my function as chairman of ISO/TC 145/SC 2 "Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours". This ISO committee is in charge of the standardization of safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols, colours and related subjects with the purpose of providing a complete information system.

At our last meetings of working group ISO/TC 145/SC 2/WG 1, we discussed several warning signs to be standardized in ISO 7010 "Graphical symbols – Safety signs used in workplaces and public areas", with graphical symbols which are very similar to those used in the labels for hazardous substances and mixtures being part of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*.

At the last SC 2 meeting, the chairman was requested to contact the relevant GHS committee to point out the need for harmonization between ISO and GHS. Many of the referents/safety meanings for safety signs in ISO 7010 are very similar to those proposed in the GHS.

Please find hereafter examples of ISO 7010 safety signs and the corresponding GHS symbols:





ISO 7010-W002 "Warning; Explosive material"



ISO 7010-W021 "Warning; Risk of fire /
Flammable materials"



You will certainly note that all graphical symbols are quite similar. The graphical quality, however, of some of the GHS symbols, might be improved.

We would appreciate if your committee considered revising their graphical symbols and adopting those from the ISO 7010. In this case we would benefit from harmonized graphical symbols all over the world.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in case of any questions. I am looking forward to your answer.

Kind regards

Jörg Vieregge

Chairman of ISO/TC 145/SC 2
