3.1 Describe the requirements for a supplier label.

Labels are a critical component of the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) as they are the first alert to the worker of the potential hazards of a product. All products identified as a hazardous product must be labelled according to WHMIS legislation.

Both suppliers and employers are responsible for ensuring hazardous products are labelled. Suppliers are responsible for labelling the hazardous products that they provide to customers. These are called supplier labels. Employers are responsible for ensuring the products they use in the workplace have supplier labels on them and create workplace labels when needed.

The **supplier label** has specific requirements based the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). In Canada, supplier labels must be written in both English and French. The label may be bilingual or there may be two labels, one in each language. The other information that must be present on a supplier label are:

1. Product Identifier
2. Pictogram(s)
3. Signal word
4. Hazard statement(s)
5. Precautionary statement(s)
6. Initial supplier identifier

The **Product Identifier** is the name of the hazardous product. It may be the brand name, chemical name, common name, generic name or the trade name of the product.

The **Pictogram** is the graphic that represents the hazard class. This is the hazard symbol that is set in the red square on point or the biohazardous infectious materials symbol. Note there may be some cases where a pictogram is not required or multiple pictograms are required.

The **Signal Word** is a prompt to alert the worker about the severity or level of the hazard. There are only two signal words: "**Danger**" and "**Warning**". "Danger" is used by high risk hazards and "Warning" is used for less severe hazards. If a signal word is assigned to a class and/or category of hazards, then it must be placed on the label and the safety data sheet (SDS) of the hazardous product.

The **Hazard Statement(s)** is a standardized statement(s) or phrase(s) that describes the nature of the hazard. Each hazard class and category has been assigned a hazard statement. These statements are short and describe the most significant hazard(s) of the product. Examples of these are:

- Combustible liquid
- Highly flammable liquid and vapour
- Contains gas under pressures; may explode if heated
- Causes eye irritation
- May cause cancer

The **Precautionary Statement(s)** is a standardized phrase that describe direct measures to be taken to minimize or prevent the adverse effects from exposure to the hazardous product or from improper handing or storage. These statements are standardized and include five types of statements:

- General
- Prevention
- Response (first aid)
- Storage
- Disposal

Examples of a precautionary statement could be:

- Store locked up.
- Wear protective gloves, protective clothing, eye protection and face protection.
- Fire fight remotely due to risk of explosion.
- If ON SKIN: wash with plenty of water

The **Initial Supplier Identifier** is the contact information of the Canadian manufacturer or the Canadian importer of the hazardous product. This should include name, address and telephone number.

There is no set format for a supplier label. Note that the mandatory hatched border from WHMIS 1988 is no long required for the supplier label. In addition to the six requirements listed above, supplier labels are also required:

- To group the pictogram, signal word and hazard statement together.
- To be clearly printed and prominently displayed on the container.
- To be easy to read.
- To be in contrast with other information on the product or container.

Supplier labels are required to be updated when the supplier is aware of significant new data. This is defined as:

> New data regarding the hazard presented by a hazardous product that change its classification in a category or subcategory of a hazard class, or result in its classification in another hazard class, or change the ways to protect against the hazard presented by the hazardous product.[1]

[1] Canada *Hazard Products Regulations*, Feb 11, 2015, Minister of Justice, http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca, page 33

The supplier has 180 days to update their labels. If a product is sold within the 180 days, the supplier must inform the customer of the new information and changes in writing.

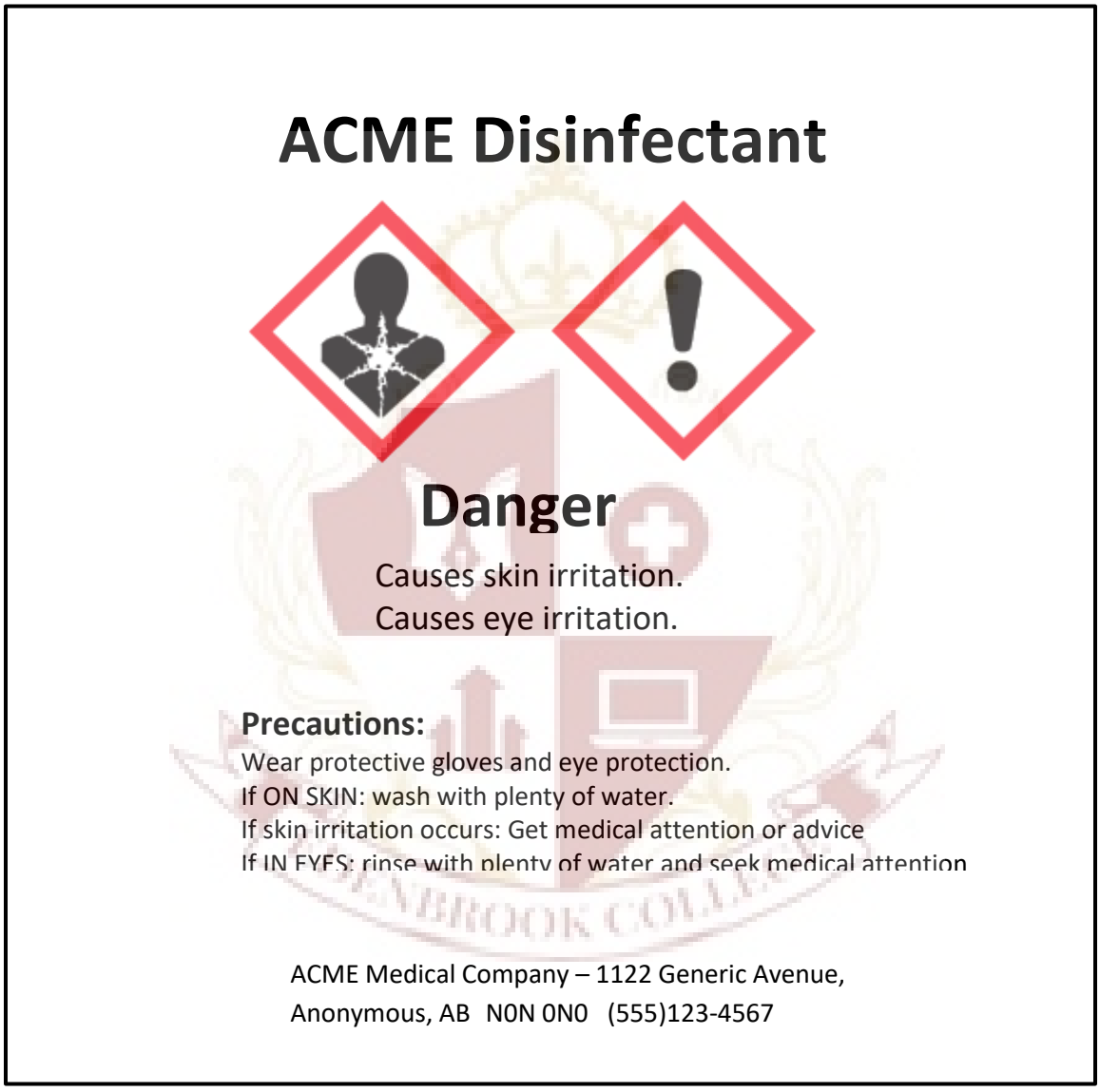



**Figure 2: Example of English Supplier Label**