



## Hazard Communication Information Sheet reflecting the US OSHA Implementation of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*

Produced by the SCHC-OSHA Alliance  
GHS/HazCom Information Sheet Workgroup

### Simple asphyxiant

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#### *How does OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS 2012) define simple asphyxiant?*

Simple asphyxiant means a substance or mixture that displaces oxygen in the ambient atmosphere, and thus causes oxygen deprivation in those who are exposed, leading to unconsciousness and death. Simple asphyxiants are of particular concern in enclosed spaces. Some examples of simple asphyxiants include: nitrogen, helium, neon, argon, krypton, and xenon. These gases are well known simple asphyxiants from experience in the workplace. Evaluation of other gases as simple asphyxiants requires expert judgment to evaluate evidence such as human experience, information from similar substances, and other pertinent data.

#### *How does HCS 2012 classify simple asphyxiant?*

The classification of simple asphyxiant is an OSHA-defined hazard. However, it is not a classification normally defined under international GHS. Information on simple asphyxiants is required on the label and SDS. No pictogram is required, but the signal word "warning" would be used, with the hazard statement "May displace oxygen and cause rapid suffocation."

Classification	Simple Asphyxiant
Pictogram	None required
Signal Word	Warning
Hazard Statement	May displace oxygen and cause rapid suffocation

#### *To learn more...*

- OSHA: Hazard Communication : <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>
- SCHC site: <http://www.schc.org/osha-alliance>

*The information contained in this sheet is believed to accurately represent current OSHA HCS requirements. However, SCHC cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this information. Users are responsible for determining the suitability and appropriateness of these materials for any particular application.*

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