



Standard Specification for Cautionary Labeling of Portable Kerosine and Diesel Containers for Consumer Use¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification establishes nationally recognized requirements for the cautionary information to be placed on the label of portable kerosine and diesel containers for consumer use. It is not the intent of this specification to preclude any other labeling requirements, such as those set forth in Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) or other applicable regulations and standards.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standard:*

ES 9 Practice for Cautionary Labeling of Portable Kerosine Containers for Consumer Use²

2.2 *Federal Document:*

CFR 1500 Federal Hazardous Substances Act³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definition:*

3.1.1 *portable kerosine and diesel containers*—vessels designed to be carried by hand and used to transport fuel from distribution point to use point.

4. Requirements

4.1 The lettering shall be of a block style and shall be of a style consistent with the requirements listed in the Federal Hazardous Substances Act.

4.2 The information required is for a single panel or label, or both. If, because of size restrictions, the information must be

divided, the main panel shall contain language consistent with the requirements of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act.

NOTE 1—If the information is divided, it would be a good practice to have the statement “Harmful or fatal if swallowed” and “If swallowed, do not induce vomiting, call physician immediately”, together.

4.3 The following information shall appear on all portable kerosine containers for consumer use:

DANGER

KEROSINE (or) DIESEL

COMBUSTIBLE

HARMFUL OR FATAL IF SWALLOWED

DO NOT USE THIS CONTAINER FOR

GASOLINE OR OTHER FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

**IF SWALLOWED, DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING, CALL PHYSICIAN
IMMEDIATELY**

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

AVOID PROLONGED BREATHING OF VAPORS

DO NOT SIPHON BY MOUTH

DO NOT STORE IN VEHICLE OR LIVING SPACE

STORE AND USE IN WELL VENTILATED AREA

DO NOT USE NEAR HEAT, SPARK, OR FLAME

KEEP CONTAINER CLOSED

4.4 Additional information for the proper use or function of the container may also appear.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Information on the wording of the warning labels which appear on the containers will help ensure the proper information is being presented to the consumer, concerning methods of handling kerosine and diesel fuels. This information can be imparted most effectively by the use of identical terms on labels provided by all manufacturers.

6. Keywords

6.1 flammable liquids containers, portable; kerosine containers; kerosine storage; diesel containers; diesel storage

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.10 on Safety Standards for Flammable Liquid Containers.

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² See *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.07, 1984 and 1985 editions only.

³ *Code of Federal Regulations*, available from U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

(Nonmandatory Information)**X1. STATEMENT OF RATIONALE FOR SPECIFICATION F 926**

X1.1 The purpose of this specification is to address labeling for identification and safe use and storage of portable **kerosine** containers for consumer use. The objective is to establish a nationally recognized color and a compilation of language that signal to the user what is in the container and how to transport, store, and dispense it safely. The English language only is considered.

X1.2 Broad acceptance to date of the color blue was persuasive to the task group in selecting it as the signal color. (This is included in 4.1 of Emergency Specification ES 9 rather than in this specification.)

X1.2.1 Objectives of the label text included the following:

X1.2.1.1 Being consistent with FHSA labeling requirements,

X1.2.1.2 Signaling the degree of toxicity by use of the word “danger”,

X1.2.1.3 Signaling the contents—kerosine—as having a flash point above 80°F by use of the word “combustible” as opposed to the words “flammable” or “extremely flammable” for other petroleum distillates—such as gasoline—which have lower flash points,

X1.2.1.4 Cautioning against dangers of substantial personal injury or substantial illness from ingestion or prolonged breathing of vapors and providing instruction not to induce vomiting but to call a physician immediately,

X1.2.1.5 Warning not to use the container for gasoline or other flammable liquids, and

X1.2.1.6 Admonitory instructions about safe handling and storage.

X1.3 The task group used Specification ES 9 as a basis for the kerosine container labeling practice and adapted it to reflect the lesser hazard of kerosine in terms of flammability. Special emphasis was given to warning against misuse of the kerosine container by inadvertently putting gasoline in it, then subsequently using the contents to fuel a kerosine burning appliance, and lighting off the appliance.

X1.4 The type size and precise sequence of signal words, warnings, and instructions were thoroughly debated with respect to order of appearance, grouping of instructions where more than one label or panel is involved, and possible use of a warning symbol near the fill opening to caution against putting gasoline in the container.

X1.4.1 NKHA’s use of a cautionary symbol near the fill opening (as included in *NKHA-A1, Standard for Marking of Kerosine Storage Containers*) was not deemed persuasive by the task group because investigation by a sub-group in 1980 in connection with gasoline containers has not discovered a symbol of that type which has universal perception or broad usage. The subcommittee at that time recommended against adoption of a hazard symbol for gasoline containers. Also, the task group recognized that the blue container color was itself a symbol.

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