

LOGISTICS

Always the Right Printout

Companies that trade in chemical substances must ensure that consignments carry all the necessary information in the appropriate languages before shipping. LEXSY LabelPrint software from Bayer Technology Services creates the suitable labels relevant to the product and the order.

When shipping chemicals, it is not sufficient to simply write the sender and recipient on the consignment. The product name and amount as well as the batch number must also be identified. In the case of hazardous goods, details of possible hazards and safety data must also be printed on the label, as well as the relevant hazard symbols and warnings. But that is not all: due to the varying provisions depending on the country of destination, the type of information required can also be different – as well as the language. The appropriate hazard symbols must also be taken into account for materials that need special handling during shipping. All this means that labels can look quite different depending on the product, order, consignee and mode of despatch. This is a particular challenge for companies – especially if the shipment is urgent.



Printed GHS-compliant labels for products and hazardous chemicals

THE PROBLEMS

Labels end up in the trash – and customs officials may even complain

Many companies stockpile certain pre-printed labels in order to be able to react quickly. This ties up storage capacities, and some labels later end up in the trash. Due to the wide variety of labels, it is hardly possible to keep all the perfectly suitable labels in stock that might be necessary at a later date. Another problem is that many businesses put together their own labels – often using Word or Excel. This is a complicated procedure and often prone to error. A simple typographical mistake can lead to customs authorities raising issues at country borders. In such situations, new labels have to be sent again – and in some cases the company may have to pay a fine.

THE SOLUTION

Always the right label straight away – how is that possible?

With LEXSY LabelPrint. Thanks to this software, companies are able to react specifically to every individual order and print out the exactly suitable label – quickly and directly on site. LEXSY LabelPrint is, for instance, linked to databases from which the relevant data on hazards and safety can be imported in the respective language for each hazardous substance and for every country. The software accesses the respective company software, for example through its SAP system, for information specific to a particular order, such as consignee data, customer number, order number and so on. With these respective data imports it is also possible to avoid typographical errors.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stephan Voß, Global Procurement & Logistics at Lanxess

We use LEXSY LabelPrint in more than 100 facilities around the world. Some 300 printers are connected to the system. Formerly, we did not have this globally harmonized label design system. The possibility to print combined labels containing information on both the product and the relevant hazards of the substance is particularly practical and cost effective. In addition, the link to the respective databases guarantees that changes in the material classifications or the legal situation can automatically be taken into account. The conversion to the new Dangerous Substances Directive of the EU in compliance with GHS was therefore not a problem for us.”