



Consumer Product SDSs and Labels: Optimizing Consistency, Compliance, and Usability

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Presenter biography

Dr. Diebol's areas of expertise include human factors, product and occupational safety, risk communication, and chemical hazard communication. She uses her expertise to evaluate the roles of warnings, instructions, risk communications, policies and procedures, standards, and regulations in safety as well as environmental health behaviors in consumer, occupational, and community settings. Dr. Diebol also provides expert analysis and testimony in cases involving product liability, occupational safety, personal injury, and toxic torts, among others. As a Certified Product Safety Manager and a Certified Safety Professional, Dr. Diebol regularly evaluates product literature, such as warnings, instructions, user manuals, labels, and safety data sheets, as well as occupational safety management policies, programs, procedures, and training materials. She has also obtained specialized knowledge of current and historical risk communication and safety management practices from research of materials dating back to the early 1900s. Based on her research and professional practice, Dr. Diebol has lectured at the University of Michigan and has spoken at national and international conferences on topics related to safety management, risk communication, chemical hazard communication, environmental health, and process safety. Dr. Diebol currently serves as Chair of the Exhibit Committee for Society for Chemical Hazard Communication. Dr. Diebol holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan College of Engineering and a doctoral degree in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.



Presentation abstract

In the U.S., consumer product SDSs are intended for workplace audiences and are regulated by OSHA, but consumer product labels are intended for consumers and are regulated by a variety of other agencies, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and others. This can lead to conflicts and inconsistencies between requirements for product labels and SDSs, difficulties in making sure that labels and SDSs are compliant with relevant regulations, and limitations on potential improvements to the usability of labels and SDSs for their respective audiences. This presentation will examine such situations, and provide practical suggestions to optimize consistency, compliance, and usability. U.S. regulations will be the focus, but compliance with other North American regulations will also be discussed.

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