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Hazard Classes

Pesticides can be classified in several ways: by toxicity, by hazard, by chemical class or by use.

The object of classification by hazard is to enable those handling and using the pesticide to take appropriate precautions to minimise exposure.

The classification which is used in many countries is the World Health Organisation Recommended Classification of Pesticide by Hazard.			
WHO hazard class	Information to appear on label	Hazard statement	Band colour
Ia	Extremely hazardous	Very toxic	Red
Ib	Highly hazardous	Toxic	Red
II	Moderately hazardous	Harmful	Yellow
III	Slightly hazardous	Caution	Blue
Products unlikelyto present a hazard in normal use			Green

It is very important that product labels bear the information on that particular product classification by hazard to enable those handling and using it to take appropriate precautions to minimise exposure.

Classification is necessary because pesticides are a general term for a large number of chemical compounds with widely varying properties and toxicity.

Any system for the regulation of the distribution and use of pesticides must be

based on a classification. Some countries adopted a different colour scheme for the label bands.

Examples:

Malaysia

Ia - Black (with skull & X-bones)
Ib - Red (with skull & X-bones)
II - Yellow
III - Blue
IV - White

China

Bands are used to classify the product type (red for insecticide, green for herbicide, and black for fungicide, khaki for plant regulator, blue for raticide)