



Regulatory Warning Labels

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There are numerous regulatory agencies that take ownership of product safety. UL, CSA, CE, FDA, and many others only scratch the surface. In this litigious society, you need to design the functions of a product, but also consider any possibility that someone might injure himself or herself when using it.

Secondly, if the product is to be widely used by non-English speaking persons, there are language issues. Most of you have purchased products and looked at instructions or warning labels that are printed in multiple languages. Based on these issues and the regulatory issues, it is not just good enough to skim through a mail order catalog looking for an existing warning label. Considering the cost of litigation, it is necessary to first understand the regulatory issues about labeling and then make sure that the label you chose communicates the warning effectively. The graphic design of a label will many times overcome the necessity of multilingual messaging.

By working with Lustre-Cal, you can customize warning labels that can meet the regulatory needs and minimize liability potential. The placement of a label at the cost of a few cents can save thousands of dollars in liability claims, product recalls or service repairs in the field. Remember, in label design, a picture is worth a thousand words.

When choosing warning labels, permanency and legibility are two key issues. The label needs to last the life of the product and its warnings need to last as well. There are many issues to study including UV fading, long term adherence to various surfaces, abrasive resistance and chemical resistance. Anodized aluminum is one substrate that has been chosen for warning labels for many years. This material offers ruggedized durability for most applications. The choice of substrate, adhesive, release liner, and ink are key components to consider when design your labels. Lustre-Cal can offer technical design assistance for any situation.

There are many regulatory areas depending on whether the product is to be sold in domestic or internationally markets. Once the decision has been made, then UL, CSA, CE, etc. will have to be investigated. This is the time for your consultant or staff to examine the specifics of the warning labels. Once you have determined where labels are required, then it is time to start discussing your mechanical and aesthetic needs.