Explanation of the HMIS® Ratings

HMIS® III - Health Hazard Ratings

*** Chronic Hazard**	Chronic (long-term) health effects may result from repeated overexposure
0 Minimal Hazard	No significant risk to health
1 Slight Hazard	Irritation or minor reversible injury possible
2 Moderate Hazard	Temporary or minor injury may occur
3 Serious Hazard	Major injury likely unless prompt action is taken and medical treatment is given
4 Severe Hazard	Life-threatening, major or permanent damage may result from single or repeated overexposures

HMIS® III - Flammability Ratings

0 Minimal Hazard	Materials that will not burn
1 Slight Hazard	Materials that must be preheated before ignition will occur. Includes liquids, solids and semi solids having a flash point above 200 F. (Class IIIB)
2 Moderate Hazard	Materials which must be moderately heated or exposed to high ambient temperatures before ignition will occur. Includes liquids having a flash point at or above 100 F but below 200 F. (Classes II & IIIA)
3 Serious Hazard	Materials capable of ignition under almost all normal temperature conditions. Includes flammable liquids with flash points below 73 F and boiling points above 100 F. as well as liquids with flash points between 73 F and 100 F. (Classes IB & IC)
4 Severe Hazard	Flammable gases, or very volatile flammable liquids with flash points below 73 F, and boiling points below 100 F. Materials may ignite spontaneously with air. (Class IA)

HMIS® III - Physical Hazard Ratings

0 Minimal Hazard	Materials that are normally stable, even under fire conditions, and will NOT react with water, polymerize, decompose, condense, or self-react. Non-Explosives.
1 Slight Hazard	Materials that are normally stable but can become unstable (self-react) at high temperatures and pressures. Materials may react non-violently with water or undergo hazardous polymerization in the absence of inhibitors.
2 Moderate Hazard	Materials that are unstable and may undergo violent chemical changes at normal temperature and pressure with low risk for explosion. Materials may react violently with water or form peroxides upon exposure to air.
3 Serious Hazard	Materials that may form explosive mixtures with water and are capable of detonation or explosive reaction in the presence of a strong initiating source. Materials may polymerize, decompose, self-react, or undergo other chemical change at normal temperature and pressure with moderate risk of explosion
4 Severe Hazard	Materials that are readily capable of explosive water reaction, detonation or explosive decomposition, polymerization, or self-reaction at normal temperature and pressure.

HMIS® (SECOND EDITION) – REACTIVITY RATINGS

0 Minimal Hazard	Materials which are normally stable even under fire conditions, and which will not react with water.
1 Slight Hazard	Materials which are normally stable, but can become unstable at high temperatures and pressures.
2 Moderate Hazard	Materials that undergo violent chemical change at elevated temperatures and pressures. These materials may also react violently with water.
3 Serious Hazard	Materials that are capable of detonation or explosive reaction, but require a strong initiating source, or must be heated under confinement before initiation. Materials which react explosively with water.
4 Severe Hazard	Materials that are readily capable of detonation or explosive decomposition at normal temperatures and pressures.

NOTE: See the appropriate HMIS® Implementation Manual for complete descriptions of the rating criteria for each of the various categories.