

## HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS SYMBOLS

Mr. Ron Basford, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, has announced regulations requiring new warning labels on poisonous, flammable, explosive and corrosive products in everyday household use.

Under the new requirements a uniform set of symbols will show both the type and degree of hazard, and warning statements and basic first aid information will appear on labels in both English and French.

“Mounting evidence in poison-control centers and hospital emergency wards across the country demonstrates the need for this measure,” Mr. Basford said. “Thousands upon thousands of deaths, injuries and poisonings can be avoided by helping people know the dangers of products found in every household.”

The new set of symbols have been pre-tested in Ottawa area schools, where a high percentage of children have grasped their meaning instinctively.

Mr. Basford said that it would still be necessary to educate children on the precise meaning of the symbols, but he hoped to have the support of parents and teachers in making the program effective.

The new regulations, the first issued under the Hazardous Products Act, deal specifically with consumer chemical products such as bleaches, polishes, sanitizers, glues and cleansers.

### DESIGN OF SYMBOLS

The symbols developed by the Consumer Affairs Bureau represent four hazards: a skull and crossbones mean poison; a flame means flammable; an exploding ball means explosive; and a hand inserted into a container of liquid means corrosive.

Each of these symbols is placed inside an outline which shows the degree of severity of the hazard. An octagon, like a traffic stop sign, means danger. A



DANGER/POISON



DANGER/FLAMMABLE



DANGER/EXPLOSIVE



DANGER/CORROSIVE



WARNING/POISON



WARNING/FLAMMABLE



WARNING/EXPLOSIVE



WARNING/CORROSIVE



CAUTION/POISON



CAUTION/FLAMMABLE



CAUTION/EXPLOSIVE



CAUTION/CORROSIVE

diamond, like a traffic warning sign, means warning. A triangle, like a traffic yield sign, means caution. There are 12 symbols in the full series which may be used in various combinations.

All chemical consumer products set out in the regulations must carry the appropriate symbol on the principal display panel of the container; the symbol must be a certain size, depending on the size of the container, and the degree of hazard, danger warning, or caution must be stated in a size of print related to the size of the container to assure easy recognition. A warning statement and first aid treatment must also appear on the container.

Establishment of these regulations means that literally all prescribed consumer chemical products sold in Canada must be relabelled. To give manufacturers reasonable time to do this, the regulations will not be enforced until June 1, 1971, after which failure to comply could result in a fine of \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for six months on summary conviction, or imprisonment for two years for an indictable offence.

## BOEING TO LOCATE IN WINNIPEG

Boeing of Canada Ltd. plans to build a \$3.2-million plant in Manitoba to produce structural fiberglass on a 136-acre site near the Winnipeg International Airport. Construction will begin shortly and it is expected that it will be in operation by 1971, employing 150 people at the start.

Initially, the plant will produce high-technology structural fiberglass assemblies, such as trailing-edge panels for wings of Boeing 747 “jumbo” jet aircraft.

Mr. Thoralf E. Gamlen, vice-president of Boeing of Canada Ltd., who made the announcement, said the selection of a Winnipeg site followed a review of potential locations all across Canada. “Our selection of Winnipeg was made because this area provides a combination of resources which, in our judgement, most acceptably supports a long-term growth of our aerospace industry,” he stated. “Included in these factors were shipping costs to our principal markets in the United States, access to a suitable airport and the availability of both supporting industry and a qualified work force.”