USP is transitioning to new label formats that meet the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) guidelines adopted by the U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA). The revised OSHA standard requires that a label include signal words, hazard statements, precautionary statements and pictograms, product identifier, and supplier identification. All elements except the precautionary statements will be visible on the outside of the new USP Reference Standard wrap labels; the precautionary statements will be found under the new labels. In addition, USP is still phasing in its new logo on labels and packaging.

During the transition period (January 2, 2014–June 1, 2015), you may receive USP Reference Standard units with old or new label formats, as well as with old or new logos. Select units will have new wrap labels placed over the original vial labels. These items will include a statement on the label indicating that they are intentionally over-labeled for GHS compliance. USP Reference Standards that have been over-labeled for GHS compliance are suitable for use in their USP compendial applications.

If you receive a product with any of the new or existing labeling or packaging examples pictured here, rest assured that you have received an official USP Reference Standard.

If you have any questions about our labeling, please contact USP Reference Standards technical support at RSTech@usp.org or call +1-301-816-8129.