Lab Safety Symbols at a Glance

General warning
At a glance: The sign is a broad reminder that the area you’re working in is likely to contain hazards and risks and you should work accordingly.

Flammable Material
At a glance: This sign commonly occurs in labs and means that flammable materials are likely to be present.

Oxidising Material
At a glance: Oxidising materials such as bromine, chlorates, nitrates, perchloric acid and peroxides.

Biohazard
At a glance: Items in this area have likely been in contact with biohazardous materials and therefore run the risk of being contaminated.

Explosive Material Hazard
At a glance: This symbol denotes that chemicals with explosive properties are present in the area including unstable explosives that can cause dangerous chemical reactions.

Toxic Material
At a glance: You’ll find this sign in areas where substances are held that could prove harmful to humans if they are inhaled, ingested or they come into contact with skin.

Ionising Radiation
At a glance: Ionising radiation (in other words, radiation that has enough energy to liberate electrons from atoms or molecules and ionise them) is present.

Low Temperature
At a glance: The symbol denotes low temperature or cryogenic hazards.

Laser Beam Hazard
At a glance: The sign denotes the presence of laser beams.

Non-Ionising Radiation
At a glance: You’ll find this symbol in areas where non-ionising radiation is present.

UV Light Hazard
At a glance: Ultraviolet light is present.