

8 WHMIS

WHMIS stands for Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System. It is a Canada-wide system to provide information about hazardous materials used by employees on the job. There are three essential elements to WHMIS:

Labels
MSDS - Material Safety Data Sheets
Education and Training

WHMIS is for every employee's protection. WHMIS describes the danger of materials employees use on the job and tells how to protect yourself from their hazards. Employees must know if material has hazardous labels and safety data sheets.

CLASS

Class A: Compressed Gas (Oxygen)

Class B: Flammable and Combustible Material (Acetylene)

Class C: Oxidizing Material (Chromic Acid)

Class D: Poisonous and Infectious Material

1. Material causing immediate and serious toxic effects (Ammonia)
2. Materials causing other toxic effects (Asbestos)
3. Biohazardous Infectious Material (Contaminated Blood Products)

Class E: Corrosive Material (Hydrochloric Acid Sodium Hydroxide)

Class F: Dangerously Reactive Material (Metal Azides)

Labels

All controlled products must have a label that identifies the product by:

1. Name

2. WHMIS Hazard Symbol
3. Risk Factor
4. Precautions
5. First Aid Instructions
6. MSDS Referral
7. The Supplier

Material Safety Data Sheets

1. Give detailed information of a product and its hazards:
 1. Product Information
 2. Hazardous Ingredients
 3. Physical Data
 4. First Aid Measures
 5. Fire and Explosion Data
 6. Toxicological Properties
 7. Reactivity Data
 8. Preventative Measures
 9. Preparation Date and Group

2. Every employee can and must protect himself/herself by:
 1. Practising safe work habits
 2. Be informed
 3. Use personal protective equipment
 4. Known emergency procedures
 5. Follow first aid practices.

3. WHMIS is for safety in the workplace - if an employee is not sure ASK SUPERVISOR.

As of May 2016, the legislation has not yet been approved in Nova Scotia. Please see the attached CCOHS WHMIS Information Fact Sheet for more information.

Implementation	2008
Revised	October 2011 May 2014 June 2016
Next review	May 2019
Authorized	November 2016