

WHMIS 2015

Guide for Employers and Workers

WHMIS 2015 is an updated information system for chemicals that requires Canada to have the same labelling and hazard communications as all other countries around the world.

Worker Education & Training

Employers will continue to be required to educate and train workers about hazardous products in their workplace after harmonization. Revised training programs, developed in consultation with the Joint Health and Safety Committee, will include:

- New hazard pictograms¹
- New hazard classes²
- New labels and their required elements, such as signal words and precautionary statements³
- The meaning of all signal words and hazard statements found on labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) in the workplace
- The new SDS format and how to locate information needed to work safely with a product
- Worksite-specific training on measures to work safely with hazardous products

After the transition period, SDSs and labels for products originating within and outside Canada will share common elements, simplifying education and training.



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**Safety
Matters @Work**
Workers Compensation Board of PEI

www.wcb.pe.ca

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EMPLOYER DUTIES

- Educate and train workers on the hazards and safe use of products
- Ensure that hazardous products are properly labelled
- Prepare workplace labels and SDSs, as necessary
- Provide workers with access to up-to-date SDSs

WORKER DUTIES

- Comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, Regulations and any order made in accordance with the *Act* or the Regulations
- Co-operate in receiving instruction, education, and training on WHMIS labels and Safety Data Sheets
- Ensure their own health and safety and that of others in or near the place of employment by:
 - Checking for a label
 - Reading, understanding and following instructions on the label and SDS
 - Following the safety procedures when working with hazardous product
 - Labelling a new container when a hazardous product is transferred or decanted

Supplier Labels

New requirements for supplier labels include signal words and hazard statements. Standardized precautionary statements will be required. Information for most label elements will be standardized. Most hazard classes and categories will have a prescribed (standardized) pictogram, signal word, hazard statement and precautionary statements. The pictogram, signal word and hazard statement must be grouped together. There is no longer a requirement for a hatched border. Supplier labels will continue to be required in both English and French.³

Workplace Labels

Requirements for workplace labels continue to include the product name (matching the SDS product name), safe-handling precautions and a reference to the SDS.

Safety Data Sheets

SDSs follow a standardized format. There are new information requirements.³ SDSs will no longer include an expiry date; suppliers will be required to update SDSs when significant new information becomes available. Workers must continue to have access to SDSs. Employers must ensure that updated SDSs are obtained and readily available for all hazardous products used, handled or stored in the workplace.

¹ See the Pictograms factsheet (www.whmis.org).

² See the Hazard Classes factsheet (www.whmis.org).

³ See the Safety Data Sheets factsheet (www.whmis.org).

Adapted from the WHMIS after GHS Fact Sheets developed by CCOHS in collaboration with Health Canada.

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