



WHMIS 2015 GHS

Participant Guide

WHMIS 2015

GHS



HR PROACTIVE Inc.
Profit by Proactive Prevention™

Quick Reference Guide



Flammable



Health Hazard



Toxic



Oxidizer



Corrosive



Irritant



Compressed Gas



Explosive



Biohazardous
Infectious Materials

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Learning Objectives

Specifically, when you complete this training, you should be able to:

- Apply knowledge of the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) in your workplace.
- Describe the different requirements for supplier and workplace labels.
- Find information on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) to use the product safely in your work area.
- Explain the health and safety hazards you may encounter.
- Identify the WHMIS pictograms and the safety precautions to take when handling the product or material.
- Describe your rights and responsibilities as they relate to WHMIS legislation.

Introduction to WHMIS 2015 GHS

Welcome to WHMIS 2015; short-form (acronym) for Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System. WHMIS is a Canada-wide system created by government, business and labour to protect the health and safety of everyone who works with or near *hazardous workplace materials*. WHMIS is enforced by the Labour Branch of Human Resources Development Canada for federal workplaces and by the provincial or territorial agencies responsible for occupational health and safety for most other workplaces. Health Canada is the government body responsible for making the required changes to the overall federal WHMIS-related laws.

Canada has aligned WHMIS with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). GHS was developed by the United Nations to establish globally a common set of rules for classifying hazardous products, labels, and a standard format for Safety Data Sheets or SDSs (formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets or MSDSs). GHS does not replace WHMIS. Employers will need to comply with the new WHMIS 2015 requirements as there are some important changes from WHMIS 1988.

In February 2015, Canada amended the *Hazardous Products Act* and published the *Hazardous Products Regulations* in order to incorporate GHS into WHMIS.



A *hazardous product* is the name given to a product, material or substance that is capable of posing significant risk to health, safety and property. The products meet one or more of the classification criteria of the *Hazardous Protection Act* and regulations. These products are regulated by WHMIS 2015 legislation and fall into one or more hazard classes – each uniquely identified by a pictogram for quick recognition.

WHMIS Three Main Parts

1. **Hazardous Material Container Labels** supply basic information about the product, along with pictograms that highlight the potential dangers. All containers of hazardous materials must be properly labelled. There are specific requirements for both supplier labels and workplace labels.
2. **Safety Data Sheets** contain comprehensive information about hazardous materials, including their content/ingredients, directions for proper use, correct cleanup and first-aid procedures. A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) must be available to employees (“workers”) for every hazardous product that is used.
3. **Education/training** to ensure anyone working with hazardous materials knows the potential dangers and the correct handling methods for these products. Under WHMIS regulation, you have a right to know about the hazardous materials in your workplace. Your employer is responsible to train you and those who work in proximity to hazardous materials.

Note: The two (2) most important physical parts of WHMIS are labels and safety data sheets or SDSs (for short).

NOTES





STOP AND THINK ACTIVITY

1. What are three (3) main parts of the WHMIS?

2. What is a *hazardous product*?

Signal Words

SDSs or supplier labels will show a signal word that indicates the severity of the hazard, if assigned to a hazard class and category. Some low hazard categories do not have a signal word assigned.

There are two signal words: Danger and Warning.

Danger is used for the more severe hazards.

Warning is used for less severe hazards.

Only one word will appear on the SDS or supplier label. If the product is both a Danger and Warning you will see the word Danger printed.

Labels

There are two (2) main types of labels: supplier labels and workplace labels. In this section, we will explore each type of label and when it should be used. Then you will have the opportunity to practice labelling and apply what you have learned. If you work in a laboratory setting, you will get job-specific training on the applications of laboratory labels.

Labels provide key information to alert you about critical hazards, precautions and first-aid measures.