

## WHMIS

For more detailed information on WHMIS (from 2015 onwards) please visit :

[https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/whmis\\_ghs/general.html](https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/whmis_ghs/general.html)

### A) What does each letter in WHMIS stand for?

**W = WORKPLACE H = HAZARDOUS M = MATERIALS I = INFORMATION S = SYSTEM**

### B) What is the purpose of WHMIS?

It is a comprehensive system for providing health and safety information on hazardous products intended for use, handling, or storage in Canadian workplaces.

**INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENT:** WHMIS has aligned with the worldwide hazard communication system known as GHS – the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

**Aligning with GHS provides many benefits, including:**

- More comprehensive hazard classification criteria, improving the ability to indicate severity of hazards.
- New hazard classes are included.
- Physical hazard criteria are consistent with the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG regulations).
- Standardized language (hazard and precautionary statements).
- Standardized SDS format and more comprehensive requirements.

The main components of WHMIS are hazard identification and product classification, labelling, safety data sheets, and worker education and training.

### C) What information would you find on a WHMIS label?











In Canada, WHMIS legislation requires that products used in the workplace that meet the criteria to be classified as hazardous products must be labelled.

Labels are the first alert to the user about the major hazards associated with that product, and outline the basic precautions or safety steps that should be taken.

Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are summary documents that provide information about the hazards of a product and advice about safety precautions. SDSs are usually written by the manufacturer or supplier of the product.

SDSs provide more detailed hazard information about the product than the label. They are an important resource for workplaces and workers to help you learn more about the product(s) used. Use this information to identify the hazards of the products you use and to protect yourself from those hazards, including safe handling and emergency measures.

SDSs tell users what the hazards of the product are, how to use the product safely, what to expect if the recommendations are not followed, how to recognize symptoms of exposure, and what to do if emergencies occur.

<b>WHMIS Pictogram</b>	<b>Name of the pictogram</b>	<b>What the pictogram means</b>
	EXPLOSION	For exploding or reactivity hazards, self-reactive substances, and peroxides
	FLAMMABLE (flame)	For fire hazards
	OXIDIZING MATERIALS (flame over circle)	For oxidants / oxidizing hazards
	COMPRESSED GAS (gas cylinder)	For gases under pressure
	CORROSIVE	For corrosive damage to metal, skin, eyes
	SKULL AND CROSSBONES	Can cause toxicity or death with a short exposure to small amounts
	HEALTH HAZARD	May cause, or suspected of causing serious health effects, carcinogenicity
	EXCLAMATION MARK	Acute toxicity to the skin, eyes, respiratory or specific organs
	ENVIRONMENT	May cause damage to the aquatic environment
	BIOHAZARDOUS INFECTIOUS MATERIALS	For organisms or toxins that can cause disease in people or animals