

work **Safe!** Bulletin

WHMIS - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

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The **WORKPLACE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM (WHMIS)** is a nationwide system that provides information on hazardous materials used in the workplace. MR 52/88 is the Manitoba Regulation that explains the three key elements of the WHMIS system.

Hazardous materials regulated under WHMIS are called controlled products and are classified into six main categories of materials: compressed gases, combustible and flammable, oxidizing, poisonous and infectious, corrosive, dangerously reactive. Controlled products must be properly labeled.

1. Labels

Products received from manufacturers/importers will have supplier labels. Products produced in a workplace or transferred into another container must have a workplace label applied (see reverse side).


2. Material Safety Data Sheets








MSDS's are required to be prepared for controlled products that are supplied to, or generated in, the workplace. Each MSDS must include specific information under the following topic headings: product information, reactivity data, preparation information, toxicological properties, hazardous ingredients, preventative measures, physical data, first aid measures, fire or explosion hazard. The MSDS's are to be made available in the workplace to any worker who handles or may be exposed to a controlled product.

3. Worker Education

The employer is required to instruct all workers who work with or in proximity to a controlled product. Instruction shall include: the content, purpose and significance of information on supplier labels, workplace labels, and MSDS's; procedures for the safe use, storage, handling and disposal of controlled products; procedures to be followed in case of an emergency involving a controlled product.

WHMIS CLASSIFICATIONS

SYMBOL		HAZARD
Class A - Compressed Gases		<p>Compressed Gases - pose an explosive danger because these gases are contained under pressure - may cause container to explode if heated in a fire or subjected to impact forces</p>

SYMBOL		HAZARD
Class B - Flammable Combustible Material		<p>Flammable and Combustible Materials - material that will burn (a potential fire hazard) or may burst into flame spontaneously, in air, or release a flammable gas on contact with water vapour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - may cause a fire when exposed to heat, sparks, flames or as a result of friction
Class C - Oxidizing Material		<p>Oxidizing Materials - pose a fire and/or explosion risk in the presence of flammable or combustible material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - may react violently or cause an explosion when contacting combustible materials
Class D-1 - Materials Causing Immediate Toxic Effects		<p>Poisonous and Infectious Materials - immediate and serious toxic effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - may be a potentially fatal poisonous substance - may be fatal or cause permanent damage if inhaled or swallowed, or entering the body through skin contact
Class D-2 - Materials Causing Other Toxic Effects		<p>Materials Causing Other Toxic Effects - a poisonous substance that may not be immediately dangerous to health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - may cause death or permanent damage as a result of repeated exposures over time - may be a sensitizer (produce chemical allergies) - may cause cancer, birth defects or sterility
Class D-3 Biohazardous Infectious Material		<p>Biohazardous Infectious Material - may cause a serious disease resulting in illness or death</p>
Class E - Corrosive Material		<p>Corrosive Material - causes eye and skin tissue damage upon contact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - causes severe tissue damage with prolonged contact - may be harmful if inhaled
Class F - Dangerously Reactive Material		<p>Dangerously Reactive Material - is very unstable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - may react with water to release a toxic gas - may explode as a result of shock, friction or increase in temperature - may explode if heated when in a closed container - undergoes vigorous polymerization or decomposition