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Connecting with our clients

on topic

▶ WHMIS To Change With Proposed Adoption of GHS

GHS stands for Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. Like WHMIS, GHS is a systematic approach to defining and classifying hazards, and communicating health and safety information on labels and material safety data sheets (called Safety Data Sheets or SDSs in GHS). It was developed with the goal that it would be adopted and used globally. Canada was part of the international team of hazard communication experts who developed GHS.

What is the scope of GHS?

GHS is broader than WHMIS in that it will apply to more than workplaces. It also applies to consumer chemicals and chemicals during transport as well as to chemicals that are currently exempt or partially exempt from WHMIS (E.g. pesticides, pharmaceuticals, explosives and consumer products). The target audiences for GHS include workers, transport workers, emergency responders and consumers.

What is the timeline for GHS implementation in Canada?

The target date for implementation in Canada is 2008. The formal decision by the Canadian government to adopt GHS is expected in late 2005.

What does adoption of GHS into WHMIS mean for your organization?

Each country is free to determine which parts of the GHS system will be used in the different sectors (workplace, transportation, consumers) of their system and Canada is in the process of doing just that. If GHS is adopted for certain hazard classes and categories then the corresponding rules for classification, and labeling

information must also be used. There is no direct translation from WHMIS hazard classifications to the GHS hazard classifications. There are more hazard classes under GHS than currently under WHMIS.

Chemical producers will have to classify their products using the new GHS rules for the classes and categories that are being used in Canada. You will need to find and interpret data according to the new classification rules. Your MSDSs will need to be reviewed and modified or rewritten depending on how closely your existing data sheets match the required format and content of the new SDSs. If you are already using the 16-section ANSI format then the changes for GHS will not be as great as if you are still using the 9-section MSDS format. You will need to prepare new labels using the GHS labeling rules. The requirements for GHS labels are different than what is required by WHMIS.

In addition, chemical producers who export their products will need to determine the requirements in the country to which they are exporting. Work is ongoing to try to ensure there is as much consistency amongst trading partners as possible but it is expected that there will be variations from country to country, depending on which classes and categories each country (and sector within the country) chooses to use.

Review and modification of the new SDSs will be a huge undertaking for chemical producers. Chemical users should expect a flood of new SDSs as the new system is implemented. Management of these SDSs will be a major challenge for both chemical producers and chemical users.

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up 'n' running

As promised the new and improved Canadian enviroOSH Legislation Plus Standards service is now available on the web.

Enhancements include:

- a new look and feel that matches other CCOHS web subscription services
- expandable table of contents for each piece of legislation
- greater searchability of all CCOHS web services – or limit your search to a particular jurisdiction, standard or topic
- a new, automatic Notification Service that allows you to track changes to specific documents (Acts, Regulations, Codes, and Standards). Subscribe to the Notification Service through the Subscriber Extras! tab on any Web Information Service search page.

If you're a CD-ROM subscriber, there's never been a better time to make the switch to the web. Contact Client Services today!

► Safety e-Learning That's Easy and Effective

The law requires that workers, managers and supervisors receive occupational health and safety training that is appropriate to their workplace. Now there's no need to spend limited training dollars on airfare and hotels, because CCOHS has developed affordable e-learning courses to make safety training accessible to anyone who has a computer. Fuelled by customer demand, CCOHS recently launched several new e-learning courses to help Canadians work smarter and safer.

These online courses allow employees to enroll via the Internet and work at their own pace, at their own convenience. Managers can track employees' progress, and be assured that all employees will receive consistent information and training. The relatively low cost of e-learning allows employers to save the money that, in traditional off-site training situations, would be spent on airfare and hotels, not to mention the lost productivity related to travel time.

The courses, available in English and French, include voice-overs, case studies, checklists and other examples to illustrate concepts. Quizzes throughout, and an exam at the end of each course measure learning progress.

CCOHS recently introduced the following safety e-learning courses:

Ladder Safety

Anyone who uses a ladder at work or at home, or supervises people who do, can benefit from the Ladder Safety e-course. This course provides a practical introduction to working safely with ladders (step, extension, and fixed ladders). It teaches employees how to inspect a ladder before use, how to properly set up of ladder, how to work safely while on the ladder, and how to store and maintain ladders.

Office Health and Safety

This course provides a practical introduction to office health and safety for managers, supervisors, employees, human resource professionals, and health and safety committee members.

The course describes the components of a health and safety program and how to recognize workplace hazards in an office environment. Topics include ergonomics, lighting, workplace stress, indoor air quality, as well as general safety concerns such as safe lifting and storage, slips, trips and falls, hazardous equipment, chemical and electrical hazards, fire prevention and evacuation.

WHMIS for Managers and Supervisors

CCOHS now has an e-course specifically for managers and supervisors. The purpose of this course is to help managers and supervisors understand and meet their responsibilities for safe use of chemicals and compliance to WHMIS (Canada's Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System).

Participants will learn about their WHMIS duties and responsibilities, WHMIS symbols and classes, supplier and workplace labels, and material safety data sheets (MSDSs). The course offers guidance and tips on developing effective workplace training programs, and also covers basic health and safety measures to protect employees and prevent workplace injuries and illnesses.

More in the works!

CCOHS is continuously developing new e-courses with several more scheduled for release this fall including: Electrical Hazards, Personal Protective Equipment and Slips, Trips and Falls.

Check the Education page on the CCOHS website at www.ccohs.ca/education/ often and see how you can learn at your own pace and in the comfort of your own environment with CCOHS' e-courses.

Register for all CCOHS e-courses online at www.ccohs.ca/education, by e-mailing clientservices@ccohs.ca or by calling 1-800-668-4284.



coming soon

Several new e-Learning courses are scheduled for release this fall:

- Electrical Hazards
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Slips, Trips and Falls

got an idea?

If you have a particular topic you would like to see covered by an e-learning course be sure and let us know by e-mailing clientservices@ccohs.ca



help yourself!

If you've got questions related to occupational health and safety **OSH Answers** can help. We've researched over 3000 of the most frequently asked questions related to occupational health and safety and provided all the answers in a free, convenient and easy to use service on the web. Visit www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers and **help yourself!**

New Turnkey

CCOHS can manage your MSDSs and make it easier for you to meet your health and safety responsibilities

First Aid Recommendations From CCOHS Updated

In the early 1990's Jessie Callaghan of CCOHS drew on the results of her 10 years of research on first aid for chemical exposures to author the publication *The Material Safety Data Sheet - A Practical Guide to First Aid*.

With another decade of monitoring the science behind first aid practices, CCOHS recently published an update to this popular publication and is making the electronic version available free of charge on its website. The results of this evidence-based review are also being used to update the first aid recommendations in CCOHS's popular CHEMINFO database.

The purpose of first aid is to minimize injury and disability. In serious cases, first aid is necessary to sustain life. The First Aid Measures section on a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provides recommendations on how to minimize the effects of an accidental exposure to a chemical product. The recommendations describe measures that trained first aid providers are able to safely use at the scene of a chemical exposure, before obtaining medical assistance.

The Material Safety Data Sheet - A Practical Guide to First Aid presents a system for preparing and/or evaluating first aid recommendations for chemical exposures in the workplace. The

publication identifies key questions on the health, fire and reactivity hazards of a chemical product and provides the user with a decision tree (flowchart approach) for arriving at accurate, consistent first aid recommendations for each route of occupational exposure (skin, eye, inhalation and ingestion). The publication is an excellent resource for people who write or evaluate first aid recommendations for Material Safety Data Sheets, workplace labels and other chemical health and safety documents or provide first aid training for chemical exposures.

This updated review resulted in several important changes being recommended from the original 1990's first aid recommendations for chemical exposures:

REMOVE clothing earlier following skin contact with a chemical.

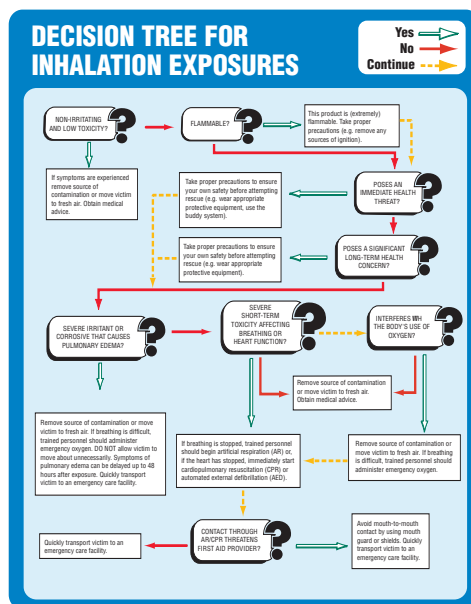
TAKE a smaller amount of water [2-8 oz (60 to 240 mL) instead of 8-10 oz (240-300 mL)] following the ingestion of a chemical.

ADVISE the use of Automated External Defibrillation (AED) for chemical exposure that has caused the heart to stop beating (very toxics).

DO NOT TAKE milk following the ingestion of a corrosive chemical.

Download the entire publication *The Material Safety Data Sheet - A Practical Guide to First Aid* free-of-charge in PDF from www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/msds_firstaid.html. Print copies are also available for \$15 plus shipping and handling.

The French version will be available soon.



Detailed decision trees help in the understanding of first aid requirements

what's new

La moisissure dans le milieu de travail : Guide de base the French version of *Mould in the Workplace: A Basic Guide* is now available in print or as a downloadable pdf. Contact Client Services to order your copy.



still growing

The Health & Safety Report, CCOHS' popular e-newsletter, is now being delivered monthly to over **9500** inboxes in over **100** countries.

To start receiving your copy visit www.ccohs.ca/newsletters/hreport/subscribe.html and fill in the online form. Within minutes the current issue will be delivered right to your inbox.

Service to Manage Your MSDSs

As part of the right-to-know (WHMIS, HCS - Hazard Communication Standard), employers must make Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) available for each hazardous substance in the workplace. Keeping track of MSDSs that are usually in a paper format, and ensuring they are up-to-date can be a major undertaking.

For organizations that do not have the resources to set up and maintain their own MSDS collection, CCOHS offers the MSDS Management Plus Service. With this complete turnkey service, the team from CCOHS does all the work, from the set up and uploading of

your MSDSs (from electronic format or paper originals), to the ongoing maintenance of your customized MSDS collection. As you receive MSDSs from new products, you simply send them to CCOHS and they are added to your collection.

The service provides you with convenient, unlimited online access to the MSDSs in your customized collection as well as CCOHS' entire MSDS database. For additional backup we also provide you with customized binders, complete with printed MSDSs, organized the way you need it.

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subscriber extras!

You'll be kept up-to-date with the MSDS Management Service Plus Update Notification. You are informed monthly by email of the changes CCOHS has made specifically to your customized MSDS collection.

CCOHS bundles additional content-rich, complimentary products and services as part of the MSDS Management Service Plus including the CHEMINFO database, Chemical Notification Service and a database of WHMIS classifications, as well as other relevant materials.

CCOHS' MSDS Management Service Plus can help you manage your occupational health and safety responsibilities relating to MSDSs and WHMIS requirements and ensure that workers have the information they need to work safely with chemicals.

Find more product and pricing information at www.ccohs.ca/products/msds/msdsservice.html or by contacting Client Services.

fyi

Canadian Healthy Workplace Week October 24-30, 2005

The theme for Canada's Healthy Workplace Week 2005 is *Healthy Workplace Outcomes*. See the special flyer insert for links to more information on how to make your workplace a *healthy workplace*.

healthyworkplaceweek.ca

you asked

Q. *My company is considering subscribing to the e-learning courses for my whole department. Is this possible?*

A. Yes, all CCOHS e-learning courses have multiple and single user pricing. For more information, or to discuss the options available with a corporate subscription, please contact Client Services.

For more answers to frequently asked questions visit www.ccohs.ca/products/faqs.html

One of the many benefits of being a web subscriber is a special place in our Web Information Service dedicated to providing you with additional value and resources FREE with your subscription.

Currently featuring...

Tell Us Your Story

We're always interested to hear how you use your CCOHS products and subscriptions to help meet your health and safety responsibilities. *So why not tell us your story?* If we use your story/quote for marketing purposes and/or in a future issue of Liaison, you'll receive a gift from us!

Access Subscriber Extras! from the CCOHS home page by simply logging in with the same user name and password you use to view database records.

There has never been a better time to switch to the Web! Contact Client Services for details.

▶ WHMIS To Change... *continued from p.1*

Training will be another major undertaking for chemical users and producers. Workers will need to be familiarized with new hazard classes introduced with GHS, the new format of SDSs and trained to understand the information found on new labels and SDSs.

Additional Resources

United Nations – Download guidance on GHS classification, labels and SDS www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html

Health Canada – Details regarding the status of GHS within Canada www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/intactiv/ghs-sgh/index_e.html

For more information contact CCOHS Inquiries Service at 1-800-263-8466 (Toll free in Canada only).

events info

**PCIH 2005
Summit for New Opportunities**
Denver, CO
Oct 22-25

**3rd Canadian Injury Prevention
& Safety Promotion Conference**
Halifax, NS
Nov 6-8

**Health & Safety Conference
Society of Alberta**
Calgary, AB
Nov 7-9

**The National Ergonomics
Conference & Exposition**
Las Vegas, Nevada
Nov 29 - Dec 2

**Health & Safety Training for
Managers and Supervisors Course**
Calgary, AB
Nov 7-9

**Health & Safety Training for
Managers and Supervisors**
Hamilton, ON
Dec 5-6

**Human Resources Professionals
Association of Ontario Conference
(HRPAO) 2006 Conference**
Toronto, Ontario
Feb 1-3

Manitoba Construction Conference
Winnipeg, MB
Feb 7-8

Liaison, a publication of the
Canadian Centre for Occupational
Health and Safety (CCOHS),
is published four times annually
for distribution exclusively
to our customers.

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With the same credibility and reliability you've always trusted from CCOHS, we've been working with leading organizations to bring you the best in workplace health information. Explore these **FREE websites** for health information that both employees and organizations can use to help bring health to work.

www.canadian-health-network.ca

CCOHS is the proud CHN Workplace Health Affiliate since 1999! Find reliable, relevant and up-to-date e-health information to learn how you can make your life, and the lives of your family and workplace even healthier!

www.canadian-health-network.ca

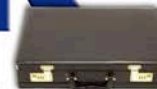
www.healthyworkplaceweek.ca

Canada's Healthy Workplace Week is overseen by the Canadian Healthy Workplace Council and managed by CCOHS, Health Work & Wellness Conference, and the National Quality Institute. Find out how to get a workplace health program started!

healthyworkplaceweek.ca
Home of Canada's Healthy Workplace week

October 24-30, 2005

Bringing Health to Work



OSH Answers – Health Promotion / Wellness / Psychosocial Section

Written by CCOHS, this section highlights workplace specific programs for Active Living, Aging Workers, Healthy Eating, Scent-free policies, Tobacco, Violence, Bullying and much more!

www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/

Workplace Health Promotion Resources

Search this unique collection of workplace health related reports, articles, conference proceedings, manuals, research and consumer health materials identified by The Health Communication Unit, Centre for Health Promotion, University of Toronto.

ccinfoweb.ccohs.ca/workplacehealth/search.html

What is a healthy workplace?

A healthy workplace uses a comprehensive and integrated approach to health that focuses on the general population at a workplace and the organization as a whole.

Workplace Health Program Goals

Maintain or improve the overall health of individuals or groups and the organization

Address the full range of individual health practices, the physical work environment (health and safety), and the psychosocial work environment (management practices and strategies).

Healthy Employees + Healthy Organizations = Healthy Workplaces