

# WHMIS

## WORKPLACE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM

WHMIS 2015 is a system that sets out the requirements for providing information on the safe use of hazardous products used in the workplace. It aims at informing workers and employers of the risks and precautions to be taken when using dangerous products.

WHMIS is governed by federal and provincial laws and regulations. Suppliers are subject to federal legislation, in particular the Hazardous Products Act and the Hazardous Products Regulations.

In June 2015, Bill 43 was passed in Quebec to replace the Hazardous Products Information Regulations (HIPR) under the Hazardous Products Information Regulations.

The 1988 version of WHMIS was therefore replaced by the 2015 version of WHMIS, which now incorporates the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) to support international trade.



## WHMIS 2015 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

	DUTIES	LEGAL OBLIGATIONS
<b>SUPPLIER</b> (manufacturer, distributor)	Manufactures, imports or sells hazardous products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Classify their hazardous</li><li>• Put on the containers the WHMIS 2015 labels</li><li>• Issue up-to-date safety data sheets (SDS)</li></ul>
<b>EMPLOYER</b>	Purchases, uses or produce hazardous products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure the presence of supplier labels and MSDSs</li><li>• Develop workplace labels</li><li>• Implement the information and training program</li></ul>
<b>WORKER</b>	Uses or is likely to be exposed to hazardous products at work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Receive and participate in training courses</li><li>• Use the information to help them work safely with hazardous materials</li></ul>



# CLASSIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS

The WHMIS 2015 classification system has 31 hazard classes, divided into categories, sub-categories and types. For example, for pressurized gases, the following categories are included: compressed gas, liquefied gas, dissolved gas and refrigerated liquefied gas. These hazard are represented by internationally standardized pictograms, with the exception of the infectious substances pictogram which applies only in Canada.

## WHMIS 2015 HAZARD PICTOGRAMS AND CLASSES

### HAZARD CLASSES



- Gas<sup>1</sup>, aerosol, flammable liquids and solids
- Emits flammable gases in contact with water
- Pyrophoric liquid and solid substances
- Organic peroxides (easily ignited by heat)
- Self-heating and self-reactive substances
- Chemicals under pressure



- Gas, liquids and oxidizing solids



- Self-reactive substances
- Organic peroxides (may explode when heated)



- Acute toxicity (Fatal or toxic if swallowed, inhaled or in case of skin contact)



- Skin sensitization
- Acute toxicity (harmful if swallowed, inhaled or in case of skin contact)
- Eye, skin or respiratory irritation
- Specific target organ systemic toxicity (STOT) - single exposure

### HAZARD CLASSES



- Corrosive to metals
- Serious eye damage
- Skin corrosion



- Gas under pressure



- Carcinogenicity
- Respiratory sensitization
- Reproductive toxicity
- Germ cell mutagenicity
- Aspiration hazard
- Target organ toxicity (single or repeated exposure)



- Aquatic toxicity (In Canada, this pictogram is not required but may be used)



- Biohazardous infectious materials

Note 1 : Include pyrophoric gases which are prone to ignite spontaneously in air at 54 degrees Celsius or less.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

Some products remain exempt from the labelling and the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) requirements for the time being. However, other regulatory requirements must still be met. The following is a summary :

#### EXEMPTED PRODUCTS

- \* Explosives
- \* Food and drugs
- \* Pesticides
- \* Nuclear substances
- \* Consumer products

- \* Hazardous residues

#### WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS

Training and information  
Workplace label (if required)

Training and information  
Identification (reduced display)

# INFORMATION ACCESS

The availability of information is based on three elements:



The safety  
data sheet



Container  
labelling



General and  
specific training



## SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)

The Safety Data Sheet provides comprehensive information on technical data, risks and preventative measures related to the use of a hazardous product. It is prepared and issued by the supplier and must be available at all times at the workplace in both official languages and could also be available in another language as required. The employer should require the SDS prior to the first delivery of the product to ensure that the equipment required to safely use the product are available.

The SDS contains 16 categories of information in the following standardized order :

1  PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION (BY SUPPLIER)	2  HAZARD IDENTIFICATION	3  COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS	4  FIRST AID
5  FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES	6  ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES	7  HANDLING AND STORAGE	8  EXPOSURE CONTROL / PERSONAL PROTECTION
9  PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES	10  STABILITY AND REACTIVITY	11  TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION	12  ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION
13  DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS	14  TRANSPORT INFORMATION	15  INFORMATION REGULATORY	16  OTHER INFORMATION



## CONTAINER LABELLING

WHMIS 2015 requires that all hazardous product containers be labelled by the supplier or the employer.

### SUPPLIER LABEL

The supplier must label the product's container. The label informs the user on the risks to which he or she may be exposed and the precautions to be taken. The supplier's label must contain six elements, including pictograms, precautionary statements and other useful information.

**Product identifier**

**Signal word**

**Hazard statements**

**Pictograms**

**Precautionary Statement(s) including first aid**

**Initial supplier identification**

**NETTOYEUR INDUSTRIEL 10 SOUS TOUT**

**DANGER**

Toxique par inhalation  
Provoque de graves brûlures de la peau et de graves lésions des yeux

Ne pas respirer les vapeurs, les brouillards et les aérosols.  
Utiliser seulement en plein air ou dans un endroit bien ventilé.  
Se laver les mains soigneusement après manipulation.  
Porter des gants de protection en caoutchouc naturel, de butyle, de nitrile ou de néoprène.  
Porter des lunettes de sécurité ou une visière (écran facial) lorsqu'il y a possibilité d'éclaboussures.  
Stocker dans un endroit bien ventilé. Maintenir le récipient fermé de manière étanche. Garder sous clef.  
Éliminer le contenu et le récipient conformément à la réglementation locale.

EN CAS D'INHALATION : Transporter la personne à l'extérieur et la maintenir dans une position où elle peut confortablement respirer. Appeler immédiatement un médecin.

EN CAS D'INGESTION : Rincer la bouche. Ne PAS faire vomir.

EN CAS DE CONTACT AVEC LA PEAU : Enlever immédiatement tous les vêtements contaminés. Rincer la peau à l'eau ou se doucher. Laver les vêtements contaminés avant réutilisation.

EN CAS DE CONTACT AVEC LES YEUX : Rincer avec précaution à l'eau pendant plusieurs minutes. Enlever les lentilles de contact si la victime en porte et si elles peuvent être facilement enlevées. Continuer à rincer. Appeler immédiatement un médecin.

Produits chimiques REPTOX  
1199, rue Du Produit, Montréal (Québec) H3C 4E1 • 1.123.456-7890

### WORKPLACE LABEL

This label is used when the controlled product is transferred to a container from the supplier's container or is manufactured and used in the workplace. It also replaces damaged or illegible supplier's label.

**Product name**

**Precautionary statements (exact transcript of SDS)**

**First aid (exact transcript from SDS)**

**OPTIONAL Safety pictograms**

**SDS reference**

**NETTOYEUR INDUSTRIEL 10 SOUS TOUT**

Ne pas respirer les vapeurs, les brouillards et les aérosols;  
Utiliser seulement en plein air ou dans un endroit bien ventilé;  
Se laver les mains soigneusement après manipulation;  
Porter des gants de protection en caoutchouc naturel, de butyle, de nitrile ou de néoprène;  
Porter des lunettes de sécurité ou une visière (écran facial) lorsqu'il y a possibilité d'éclaboussures;  
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EN CAS DE CONTACT AVEC LES YEUX : Rincer avec précaution à l'eau pendant plusieurs minutes. Enlever les lentilles de contact si la victime en porte et si elles peuvent être facilement enlevées. Continuer à rincer. Appeler immédiatement un médecin.

Pour plus de renseignements, consulter la fiche de données de sécurité



## OTHER DISPLAY TYPES

Depending on the situation, other types of displays are planned:



### WORK-PLACE LABEL

Bulk products, unpackaged products or products in a manufacturing stage where the label cannot be seen (packaging and storage).

**DISPLAY REQUIREMENTS:**  
Same as workplace label

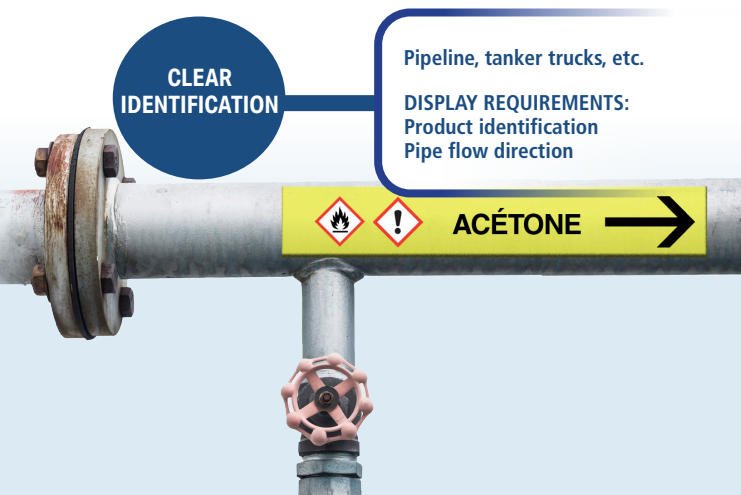


### REDUCED IDENTIFICATION

Hazardous wastes

**DISPLAY REQUIREMENTS:**  
Product identification  
Cautionary statements

**Note:**  
Reduced display is possible in the case of fugitive emissions (e. g. hydrogen vapours when recharging batteries).



### CLEAR IDENTIFICATION

Pipeline, tanker trucks, etc.

**DISPLAY REQUIREMENTS:**  
Product identification  
Pipe flow direction



## GENERAL AND SPECIFIC TRAINING

It is an employer's obligation to train and inform workers. The training consists of two components: general training and specific training. The general training consists of presenting the responsibilities and key elements related to WHMIS 2015. Specific training must be adapted to the hazardous products and specific risks to which workers are exposed in the workplace. Such training must be given to any worker who uses or is likely to be exposed to dangerous products in the course of his work.

After the training, workers must be able to answer the following questions:

- What are the hazards of the product?
- How can we protect ourselves against these dangers?
- How to use, store and dispose of hazardous products safely
- What to do in case of an emergency? How do I access SDSs?

The employer must provide periodic training refreshers as well as a yearly update of the training program. This program may include evaluations or exercises, practical demonstrations, etc. in order to validate the knowledge and the workers' skills.





**1** Never underestimate the risk.  
Read and apply precautionary  
statements as indicated on labels.

**2** Avoid any direct contact with hazardous  
products and wear the required PPE.

**3** Report any anomalies (missing  
or unreadable labels, damaged  
containers, spills, etc.)

**4** Be prepared to react quickly  
in case of emergency.

**5** Comply with the company's  
established procedures when  
using products, as well as for  
handling, storage and disposal.

Additional links:

[www.whmis.com](http://www.whmis.com)  
[www.reptox.csst.qc.ca](http://www.reptox.csst.qc.ca)  
[www.cchst.ca](http://www.cchst.ca)

Reference documents:

-Hazardous Products Act  
-Hazardous Products Information  
Regulations (HIPR)  
**Québec**   
-Hazardous Products Regulations  
**Canada**

**MULTI**  
**PRÉVENTION ASP**

2405, boul. Fernand-Lafontaine, bureau 150  
Longueuil (Québec) J4N 1N7  
**Tél. : 450-442-7763** Téléc. : 450-442-2332

979, av. de Bourgogne, bureau 570  
Québec (Québec) G1W 2L4  
**Tél. : 418-652-7682** Téléc. : 418-652-9348

**[www.multiprevention.org](http://www.multiprevention.org)**

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