







Globally Harmonized WHMIS Training

Workers Health & Safety Centre

Program Duration: 2-3 hours

*English and French available

Canada's Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System, commonly known as WHMIS, is designed to provide workers with information about hazardous products used, stored, handled or disposed of in the workplace.

This system is mandated by federal, provincial and territorial law. The main purpose of federal WHMIS legislation is to require suppliers of hazardous products to provide health and safety information as a condition of sale. Provincial and territorial law establishes employer duties to obtain this information and ensure workers have access to it and can use it to protect their health and safety.

In Ontario, WHMIS applies to all workplaces covered by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (*the Act*) as well as federally-regulated workplaces governed by the *Canada Labour Code (the Code*).

Transitioning to Globally Harmonized WHMIS

Changes to federal WHMIS-related law, and supporting provincial and territorial regulation, are altering the way this information is delivered. These changes involve incorporating the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) into existing WHMIS here in Canada.

The purpose of GHS WHMIS is to standardize, on a global scale, the hazardous product communication system. Examples of changes include:

- new hazard classification rules and hazard classes,
- safety data sheets (SDSs) replacing MSDSs,
- new content requirements on hazardous product labels,
- pictograms replacing hazard symbols, and
- new SDS and label updating requirements.

Workplaces here in Ontario, and across Canada, are now transitioning from WHMIS to GHS WHMIS (transition will end in December, 2018).

Mandatory Training Requirements

What is not changing with this transition are the significant legal training obligations for employers. Ontario employers covered by *the Act* or *the Code* will still be legally required to provide workers with general and workplace-specific training. The training though, will need to cover the new GHS WHMIS.

...2

Globally Harmonized WHMIS Training
cont'd

WHSC Globally Harmonized WHMIS Training

Further to this training obligation, Ontario **law requires that training results in workers being able to use the information to protect their health and safety** [s. 7(3), WHMIS Reg.].

In response, the Workers Health & Safety Centre (WHSC) has developed a new Globally Harmonized WHMIS training program. This two-hour in-class program is an important step in helping employers comply with their WHMIS-related training and learning obligations.

This program is also designed to achieve workforce competence – essential in light of the significant health implications associated with hazardous materials.

Training participants will engage in a comprehensive overview of the new information and communication requirements including the examples mentioned above.

This training is suitable for workers, supervisors and others in workplaces of all sizes, industries and occupations where WHMIS-controlled products are used, stored, handled or disposed of in the workplace.

Like all WHSC programs, adult learning principles are applied and delivered by experienced and highly-qualified instructors to ensure learning is relevant and achieved.

Additional Employer Training Obligations

During transition employers must train workers in both original WHMIS and GHS WHMIS. GHS can become the sole focus of worker training only when all products with the original WHMIS labels and MSDSs are no longer used in the workplace (must be the case by December, 2018). In-class WHMIS training is available in both English and French.

WHMIS regulation also requires employers to provide workplace-specific training to workers, including product-specific procedures for the safe use, storage, handling and disposal of a hazardous product and what to do in case of an emergency situation.

The WHSC offers original WHMIS training to further assist workplaces seeking to gain full compliance with training obligations.

For more information or to register:

Visit: www.whsc.on.ca
Call: 1-888-869-7950 and ask to speak to a training services representative