

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW & WHMIS

TRAINING

▶ THE RIGHT THING. THE RIGHT WAY.

Want to learn more about WHSC information and training resources? Visit our website or call us toll-free and ask to speak to a training service representative

**Workers Health
& Safety Centre**

Knowing Your

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Workers Health & Safety Centre (WHSC) is Ontario's foremost health and safety training and information service provider. We are **Ontario's legally designated** health and safety training centre.

For more than 30 years we have developed and delivered training and other information resources to help workers and other workplace parties to understand their **rights and responsibilities** in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (the Act)*. Today, this type of training and information service aimed at helping workplace parties to identify and eliminate or control hazards, remains central to our mandate.

Since its passage in 1979 Ontario's *Occupational Health and Safety Act* has given workers a legal **right to know** about hazards on the job and the **duty to report** hazards of which they are aware to their supervisors. In 1988 additional laws were passed across Canada to establish a system to ensure workers exposed to or working near hazardous chemicals receive information to protect themselves. The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System, or WHMIS, requires suppliers of hazardous materials to provide hazard information through labels and material safety data sheets (MSDS).

Under *the Act* and Ontario WHMIS Regulation, employers have significant responsibilities to **protect workers** against hazardous exposures. Here are some key employer obligations:

- ▶ Provide information, instruction and supervision to workers to protect their health and safety
- ▶ Assess all biological and chemical agents produced in the workplace to determine if they are hazardous materials
- ▶ Ensure all hazardous materials are properly labeled or identified with either a workplace or supplier label
- ▶ Obtain an unexpired (less than three years old) material safety data sheet (MSDS) for every workplace hazardous material and make them readily available to workers, the joint health and safety committee or representative
- ▶ Educate all workers who are exposed to or who work near any hazardous material
- ▶ Ensure a hazardous material is not used, handled or stored unless all requirements for identification, MSDS and worker training are met.

Posting this

RIGHT TO KNOW RESOURCE

in Your Workplace

This is an awareness tool only. **Post this in a prominent location** to help remind workers, supervisors, employers, health and safety representatives and joint committee members of the legal requirements for the safe use, handling and storage of hazardous materials.

If new GHS WHMIS labels and safety data sheets (SDSs) are now present in your workplace along with original WHMIS labels and MSDSs, be sure to also post the WHSC's poster entitled *Your Right to Know Globally-Harmonized WHMIS* in your workplace.

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW. YOUR HEALTH.

WHMIS HAZARD CLASSES



Class A
Compressed Gas



Class B
Flammable
and Combustible
Material



Class C
Oxidizing Material



Class D-1
Poisonous and
Infectious Material
(material causing immediate
and serious effects)



Class D-2
Poisonous and
Infectious Material (material
causing other toxic effects)



Class D-3
Poisonous and
Infectious Material (biohazardous
infectious material)



Class E
Corrosive Material



Class F
Dangerously
Reactive Material

WHMIS training requirements

Employers have specific legal duties to ensure hazard information is effectively communicated to their workers.

Employers must provide a WHMIS worker education program for all workers exposed to or likely to be exposed to hazardous materials.

The WHMIS worker education program, its content and delivery, must be developed in **consultation** with the joint health and safety committee or representative.

Unless you can answer yes to all of these questions, you may need WHMIS training or to review your existing program.

	YES	NO
Do you know what WHMIS is?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you understand the WHMIS symbols (opposite)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you understand other information required on supplier and workplace labels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you know what a material safety data sheet (MSDS) is?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you know where to find a MSDS for each hazardous material you work with?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you been trained on how to protect yourself when using hazardous materials? (protective equipment, procedures for safe use, handling, storage and disposal as outlined on MSDS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you know what to do in case of a spill or an emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has your WHMIS program been reviewed in the last year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Contact us to enquire about WHMIS and Globally Harmonized WHMIS training along with review and compliance tools.

Want to learn more?

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