

The WHSC offers a variety of training programs and information services aimed at helping you to understand the legally mandated rights and responsibilities of all workplace parties. Connect with us.

Training for What **Matters** Most



Globally-Harmonized WHMIS

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The Canada Labour Code and Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act provide workers a legal right to know about hazards on the job. Federal and provincial Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Regulations establish more specific provisions essential to the worker right to know. Now globally-harmonized, this system includes important elements for the classification of hazardous workplace products and communication on their safe use, storage, handling and disposal, as well as emergency

Chief vehicles for communicating hazardous product information are:

- Hazard class pictograms;
- Product labels;
- Safety data sheets (SDSs); and
- Worker training.

All are standardized by law with the exception of worker training. Although based on decades of experience, many believe standardized WHMIS training for workers, their supervisors and representatives is long overdue. Without quality training workers are often left vulnerable to a host of hazards that cause disability, disease and death.

Regardless, existing law includes a performance based requirement that WHMIS training "results in the workers being able to use the information to protect their health and safety". This is but one of many WHMIS-related, supplier and employer obligations set out in federal and provincial law.

Suppliers of a hazardous product must:

- Determine the classification of a hazardous product;
- Provide a label complying with specific requirements in English and French; and
- Provide SDSs in English and French.

Employers must:

- Ensure proper labelling of hazardous products;
- Ensure access to up-to-date SDSs for workers and other workplace parties;
- Provide worker training to ensure competence on the safe use of hazardous products and emergency procedures;
- Ensure this training is reviewed at least annually;
- Consult with joint health and safety committee or worker health and safety representative on training development, implementation, and review; and
- Take all additional and reasonable precautions to protect the safety and health of workers.

Post the reverse side of this WHMIS Poster in vour workplace

The flip side of this Right to Know resource should be posted in a prominent location in your workplace as a reminder about the legal requirement to train workers so they are competent on the safe use of hazardous products.

YOURRIGHT TO KNOW Globally-Harmonized WHIIS

WHMIS HAZARD PICTOGRAMS

Environmental (aquatic) toxicity*

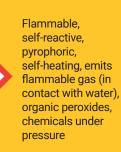
Serious eye damage, skin corrosion, corrosive to metals

Irritation, skin sensitizer, acute toxicity, target organ toxicity, hazardous to the ozone layer*

Self reactive, organic peroxides

Acute toxicity (severe)

*optional



Oxidizers (can burn without air)

Carcinogen, reproductive toxicity, respiratory sensitizer, target organ toxicity, mutagen, aspiration hazard

Gas under pressure, chemicals under pressure

Biohazardous infectious materials

WHMIS Training Requirements

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

The provision of WHMIS training to all workers exposed or likely to be exposed to hazardous materials is an essential component of this duty.

This WHMIS training must be developed and implemented in consultation with the joint health and safety committee or representative.

If you answer no to any of the following questions you may need WHMIS training or WHMIS refresher training. Likely your existing workplace WHMIS program also needs to be reviewed.

	Yes	No
Can you name the three ways WHMIS information is shared?		
Do you understand the WHMIS pictograms (opposite)?		
Can you name required signal words for workplace/product labels and explain their differences?		
Do you know what a safety data sheet is?		
Do you know where you can find a safety data sheet in your workplace?		
Have you been trained in the safe use, handling, storage and disposal of hazardous products?		
Do you know what to do in case of an accidental release or an emergency?		
Has your workplace WHMIS program		

Want to learn more?



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been reviewed in the last year?

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