

# WHMIS 2015 & GHS (Globally Harmonized System)

## IDENTIFY

Health Canada has changed the original Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) requirements in Canada that will incorporate the Globally Harmonized System of Classifying and Labelling Workplace Chemicals (GHS) — an internationally agreed-upon hazard communication system developed by the United Nations.

WHMIS is Canada's national hazard communication system for hazardous products in the workplace. WHMIS 2015 is the revised version of this hazard communication system that coincides with the replacement of the Controlled Products Regulations (CPR) with the Hazardous Products Regulations (HPR). The HPR meets the requirements for the Globally Harmonized System (GHS), which is a global hazard communication system for hazardous products in the workplace.

GHS was developed in 1992 by the United Nations to ensure that any product imported to a country will have the same hazard identifiers and communication systems in place to help protect employees working with that controlled product.

## COMMUNICATE AND CONTROL

Employees need to know the hazards that are identified by the WHMIS 2015 pictograms and supplier labels. As well, they need to understand when to use a workplace label and the information required to be on it.

Employers have a responsibility to ensure that workers using a controlled product are trained to understand the elements of WHMIS 2015 as well as understand how to use the specific controlled products in their workplace. Successful WHMIS 2015 education and training will ensure that workers can answer the following questions about all controlled products that they work with:

1. What are the hazards of the product?
2. How do I protect myself from those hazards?
3. What do I do in case of an emergency?
4. Where can I get further information?

## Labels

Supplier labels are labels on controlled products that are produced by the supplier and they are a worker's first source of information about the hazards of a controlled product and how to use it safely.

Supplier labels must include the following:

- The product identifier as it appears on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
- Hazard pictograms
- Signal word
- Hazard statements
- Precautionary statements
- Supplier identifier
- A reference to the SDS

Workplace labels are used when the original supplier label is not legible or is missing. As well, if a worker is transferring product from a larger container into a smaller container without a supplier label, they should use a workplace label.

Workplace labels can include the hazard pictogram, but must include the following information:

- The product identifier as it appears on the SDS
- Safe handling precautions (this can be found in Section 7 of the SDS)
- A reference to the SDS

## Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

As of December 1, 2018 all SDSs must be updated to meet the new requirements. These sheets must be readily available for all products brought into and/or used in the workplace. The SDS will consist of 16 sections, 12 of which are mandatory, the other four are optional, but still must be included. All SDSs should have a date of 2015 or newer and include the new pictograms.

## Pictograms

Source:  
www.ccohs.ca/oshansw  
ers/chemicals/whmis\_gh  
s/pictograms.html

# WHMIS 2015 SYMBOLS GUIDE



**FLAME**

FOR FIRE HAZARDS



**FLAME OVER  
CIRCLE**

FOR OXIDIZING HAZARDS



**ENVIRONMENT**

MAY DAMAGE AQUATIC  
ENVIRONMENT

\*NEW TO  
WHMIS GHS



**GAS  
CYLINDER**

FOR GASSES UNDER  
PRESSURE HAZARDS



**CORROSION**

FOR CORROSIVE  
MATERIAL HAZARDS



**EXPLODING  
BOMB**

FOR EXPLOSION &  
REACTIVITY HAZARDS



CAN CAUSE  
DEATH/TOXICITY WITH  
SHORT EXPOSURE/SMALL  
AMOUNTS

**SKULL & CROSSBONES**



MAY CAUSE  
SERIOUS HEALTH  
EFFECTS

**HEALTH HAZARD**



MAY CAUSE LESS  
SERIOUS HEALTH  
EFFECTS/DAMAGE  
OZONE LAYER

**EXCLAMATION MARK**



ORGANISMS/TOXINS  
THAT CAUSE  
DISEASE IN  
PEOPLE/ANIMALS

**BIOHAZARDOUS  
INFECTIOUS  
MATERIALS**

# THE QUIZ

- What section of the SDS references "safe handling precautions"?
  - Section 5
  - Section 8
  - Section 7
  - Section 4
- SDSs are required to be provided on each worksite:  
TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_
- How many sections do the new SDSs include?
  - 12
  - 16
  - 9
  - 14
- The two types of labels are:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- What does GHS stand for?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- When is a workplace label required?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Where are SDSs located on your site?  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. c; 2. TRUE; 3. b; 4. Supplier, workplace;  
5. Globally Harmonized System; 6. When original supplier  
label is not legible or missing, and when transferring  
product from a larger container to a smaller container  
without a supplier label; 7. Site-specific answer

**ANSWERS:**