

DECEMBER

SAFETY TALK

WHMIS

WHMIS stands for the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System. It is based on the fact that workers are entitled to know the hazards of the products that could cause harm in the workplace, and in procedures to safely work with those products.

Since 2015, WHMIS has aligned with the world-wide Globally Harmonized System of classification and labelling of products.

It is a comprehensive system for providing health and safety information on hazardous products intended for use, handling, or storage in Canadian workplaces.

WHMIS 2015 divides hazardous products into two major hazard groups: physical hazards and health hazards. These two groups are further divided into hazard classes, which group products with similar properties together.

The category tells you how hazardous a product is.

Pictograms (below) provide, at a glance, a visual identification of the hazards.

Hazardous products in the workplace must be labelled. Labels tell of major hazards of the product, as well as basic steps to work safely with the product.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) provide in-depth information about the product, including:











- The hazards
- How to use it safely
- What could happen if appropriate procedures aren't followed
- How to recognize symptoms of exposure, should they occur
- What to do in the event of an emergency

Everyone using a hazardous product in the workplace must have access to the SDS.

All workers must be trained in WHMIS. A regular review of the products used in the workplace must also take place.

BCMSA offers classroom and online WHMIS training options:

- WHMIS 2015 Online - \$15 per learner
- WHMIS 2015 / GHS on-site training

	Expanding bomb (for explosion or reactivity hazards)		Flame (for fire hazards)		Flame over circle (for oxidizing hazards)
	Gas cylinder (for gases under pressure)		Corrosion (for corrosive damage to metals, as well as skin, eyes)		Skull and Crossbones (can cause death or toxicity with short exposure to small amounts)
	Health hazard (may cause or suspected of causing serious health effects)		Exclamation mark (may cause less serious health effects or damage the ozone layer*)		Environment* (may cause damage to the aquatic environment)
	Biohazardous Infectious Materials (for organisms or toxins that can cause diseases in people or animals)				