



# WHMIS is changing

## Are you ready?

In February 2015, the federal government introduced changes to the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) in Canada. Because of these changes, there are new rules for classifying hazardous products, labelling hazardous products, and formatting Safety Data Sheets (formerly called Material Safety Data Sheets).

### Transition period

Although the legislation governing WHMIS 2015 was passed in 2015, the transition to the new system will take place over a number of years. During this time, both WHMIS 1988 and WHMIS 2015 systems may be used in the workplace. The transition period will end on December 1, 2018. After that, only WHMIS 2015 will be allowed in the workplace.

Since the new federal legislation is now in force, some suppliers may start using WHMIS 2015 immediately and some may wait until the end of the transition period. Therefore, workplaces may have some product labels or (Material) Safety Data Sheets that follow the old WHMIS 1988 system and others that follow the new WHMIS 2015 system.

### Worker education

Employers are required to educate their workers on whichever system is used in their workplace. If labels and (M)SDSs provided by the supplier meet the requirements of the new WHMIS, then workers need to be taught WHMIS 2015. If labels and (M)SDSs still follow the older WHMIS, then workers must be trained on WHMIS 1988.

IHSA has updated its half-day in-class WHMIS program to cover both the WHMIS 1988 and WHMIS 2015 classification systems. This course will be offered until the end of the transition period.

IHSA also has a new online WHMIS 2015 course that is available as a certificate program. There is also a non-certificate WHMIS Review program that can be used for the annual update and review of the WHMIS 1988 system. These online programs can be found on the e-Learning portal of our website: [ihsa.ca/Training/eLearning.aspx](http://ihsa.ca/Training/eLearning.aspx)

### What has changed?

All Canadian provinces and territories, as well as the federal government in the case of federally regulated industries, require that employers educate their workers about hazardous products in the workplace. They must also make sure that supplier labels or workplace labels are attached to hazardous products and that (Material) Safety Data Sheets are available on site. These requirements have not changed with WHMIS 2015.

What has changed are the hazard classes, the pictograms used to communicate the hazards, the required elements on labels, and the format of (M)SDSs. These changes help ensure that Canada's chemical hazard communication system is similar to other countries.

On the following page, you'll find examples of the new pictograms that are used in WHMIS 2015. This page is also a pull-out poster to help reinforce the training workers have received on the new WHMIS 2015 system. Additional copies of P003 can be ordered by visiting [ihsa.ca/products](http://ihsa.ca/products)

# WHMIS 2015

## PICTOGRAMS AND CLASSES

In February 2015, the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) in Canada changed. There are new rules for classifying and labelling hazardous products and formatting Safety Data Sheets. Below are the new pictograms and hazard classes for WHMIS 2015.





- 1. Flame hazards (fire hazards)**
  - Flammable gases (Cat. 1)
  - Flammable liquids (Cat. 1, 2, and 3)
  - Flammable solids
  - Flammable aerosols
  - Pyrophoric (can catch fire if exposed to air)
  - Self-heating
  - Organic peroxides (can catch fire or explode if heated) (Types B\*, C, D, E and F)
  - Self-reactive (can catch fire or explode if heated or can react on its own) (Types B\*, C, D, E and F)
  - Substances that emit flammable gases in contact with water
- 2. Exploding Bomb (explosion or reactivity hazards)**
  - Self-reactive (Types A and B\*)
  - Organic peroxides (Types A and B\*)
- 3. Flame Over Circle (oxidizing hazards)**
  - Oxidizing gases, liquids, and solids (can cause or intensify a fire or explosion)
- 4. Health Hazard (serious health effects)**
  - Respiratory sensitizer
  - Mutagenicity (can cause mutations)
  - Carcinogenicity (can cause cancer)
  - Reproductive toxicity
  - Specific target organ toxicity (single or repeated exposure)
  - Aspiration hazard
- 5. Exclamation Mark (less serious effects)**
  - Acute toxicity
  - Skin irritation
  - Eye irritation (Cat. 2 and 2A)
  - Skin sensitizer
  - Specific target organ toxicity (single exposure)
- 6. Corrosion**
  - Corrosive to metals
  - Skin corrosion
  - Serious eye damage
- 7. Gas Cylinder**
  - Gases under pressure (can explode if heated and can cause frostbite)
- 8. Skull & Crossbones (death or toxicity)**
  - Acute toxicity (Fatal or toxic if inhaled, if in contact with skin, or if swallowed)
- 9. Biohazardous Infectious Materials**
  - Organisms or their toxins that can cause disease

\*Both the Flame and Exploding Bomb pictograms are used for Self-reactive (Type B) and Organic peroxides (Type B).

**Physical or Health Hazards Not Otherwise Classified**  
Use the pictogram that is appropriate to the hazard identified.

These classes and categories do not require a pictogram but the product label and SDS still require the signal word, hazard statement(s), and other required label elements.

- Flammable gases (Cat. 2)
- Flammable liquids (Cat. 4)
- Self-reactive (Type G)
- Organic peroxides (Type G)
- Combustible dusts (Cat. 1)
- Simple asphyxiants (Cat. 1)
- Eye irritation (Cat. 2B)
- Reproductive toxicity (lactation)



P003

### Are you compliant with new the legislation?

Workers who may be exposed to hazardous materials are required to be trained on the hazard classification system used in their workplace. Until the end of the transition period, December 1, 2018, most workplaces will be using both WHMIS 1998 and WHMIS 2015.

Use this poster to reinforce the training workers have received on the WHMIS 2015 system. Visit [ihsa.ca/products](http://ihsa.ca/products) to order additional copies of P003 and to order the WHMIS 1998 poster (P002).

