# WHMIS Handbook





## WHMIS

### What is it?

- <u>W</u>orkplace <u>H</u>azardous <u>Materials</u>Information <u>S</u>ystem
- A system of information delivery





## **3 Components of WHMIS:**

- Labels for hazardous materials which alert employers and workers
- MSDS (material safety data sheets) which provide detailed hazard and precautionary information
- Worker Education which provides information on hazards and training in work procedures





## WHMIS

- A nationwide system to provide information on hazardous materials
- WHMIS was created to keep employees healthy
- Business and industry must comply



# **Capital Health WHMIS Policy**

- Capital Health has a WHMIS policy
- Capital Health policy includes ALL hazardous materials; not just those covered under WHMIS legislation, but also covered under the Pest Control Products Act, the Food and Drug Act, and the Consumer Products Regulations
- In this way, employees have access to ALL hazardous materials that they handle in the workplace

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## WHMIS Classes and Symbols

- There are six classes with one class divided into three divisions.
- Therefore, there are eight

corresponding WHMIS symbols



# Class A - Compressed Gas Risk

danger of explosion

## **Precautions**

- do not drop
- avoid heat



store in the designated area



## **Class B - Combustible/Flammable**

## Risk

• potential fire hazard

## **Precautions**

- avoid even low heat
- do not smoke



 store in cool, fireproof area approved by supervisor



## Class C - Oxidizing Material Risk

- explosion or fire
- **Precautions**
- keep away from combustible materials such as wood and fuels
- keep away from sources of ignition



wear protective equipment & clothing, including eye, face and hand protection

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## Class D1 - Immediate and Serious Toxic Effects

### Risk

- may cause death or permanent damage if it enters the body in any way
- may burn eyes or skin

### **Precautions**

- extreme caution
- wear protective equipment & clothing including eye, face, hand and breathing protection



- use in well-ventilated areas only
- wash and shower thoroughly after use
- store in designated area only

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## Class D2 - Material Causing Other Toxic Effects

### Risk

- may cause death or permanent damage with multiple exposures over time
- skin or eye irritation
- chemical allergy
- cancer
- birth defects or sterility

### **Precautions**

- wear protective equipment and clothing including eye, face, hand and breathing protection
- use in well-ventilated areas only
- store in designated area only



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## **Class D3 - Biohazardous Infectious Material**

### Risk

 may cause a serious disease leading to illness or death

### **Precautions**

extreme caution



- use proper protective equipment
- use in designated areas only with proper engineering controls



## **Class E - Corrosive Material**

### Risk

- severe skin and eye irritation upon contact
- serious tissue damage with prolonged contact
- harmful if inhaled

### **Precautions**

- keep container tightly closed
- wear proper protective clothing including eye, face, hand and breathing equipment
- use in well-ventilated areas only





## Class F - Dangerously Reactive

### **Risk**

- very unstable
- may react with water to release toxic or flammable gas
- container may explode if heated or dropped



### **Precautions**

- keep away from heat
- open carefully, do not drop
- store in cool, flameproof area approved by supervisor

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# Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)



## Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

An MSDS is a Technical Data Sheet providing information on:

- health effects of overexposure
- health evaluation related to product handling, storage and use
- measures to protect workers at risk of overexposure
- emergency procedures







## An MSDS acts as:

- a reference for health information at the work site
- a method to keep health information up-to-date





## **MSDS**

The MSDS does NOT give all information needed for safe use of a product. Conditions of use change from one location to another, and each work area should develop safe work procedures based on information from the MSDS and the work site.



# An MSDS must have the following 9 sections:

- 1. Product Information
- 2. Hazardous Ingredients
- 3. Physical Data
- 4. Fire & Explosion Hazard
- 5. Reactivity Data
- 6. Toxicological Properties
- 7. Preventive Measures
- 8. First Aid Measures
- 9. Preparation Information

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## **Product Information**

The intention of this section is to provide product and manufacturer / supplier identification and a description of product use. It is of particular use in organizing data sheets for quick retrieval and in emergency circumstances for contact with the manufacturer and supplier.



## **Product Information**

- Product Identifier the identification of the product by generic name, trade name, brand name, common name, chemical name, code name or code number specified by the supplier. The name of the product on the MSDS must match the name on the label.
- Product Use the way the product is being used should match the manufacturer's intended use, so that safety information will be correct.





## **Product Information**

- Manufacturer's and Supplier's Information – the name, street address, city, province, postal code and emergency telephone number must appear for both manufacturer and supplier, if any of the information changes, a new MSDS should be issued.
- Product Identification Number (PIN) a 4-digit reference number to help locate additional hazard information.

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## Hazardous Ingredients

This section provides information on the identity, concentration and estimators of acute toxicity for ingredients in a controlled product.





## **Physical Data**

This section provides a physical description of the product which is useful for product recognition, understanding its response to changes in the physical environment, and has specific applications for ventilation system design and emergency procedures.



# Fire or Explosion Hazard

The intent of Section 4 is to provide information to assist with fire and explosion prevention, and procedures in the event of an emergency. This section is particularly important with flammables, solvents, organic peroxides, explosives, metal dusts and other unstable substances. If the product is not flammable or explosive, information in this section must reflect that fact.





## **Reactivity Data**

This section provides information on the stability of the product and its likelihood of dangerous reaction with other chemicals. Information here has implications for handling procedures, storage arrangements and may be useful along with Section 4 for the prevention and control of fires and explosions.

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## **Toxicological Properties**

This section provides information on how a material is likely to enter the body and what short- and long-term health effects it is likely to have on an exposed worker, including signs and symptoms of exposure and pre-existing medical conditions which may be aggravated.



## **Preventive Measures**

The intent of this section is to provide a clear direction for the provision of measures to protect worker health and safety during the transportation, storage, use and disposal of the product, as well as emergency procedures related to accidental release.

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## **First Aid Measures**

Provides information necessary for the safe evacuation and immediate treatment of a person experiencing acute effects of overexposure to the controlled product. Information is meant for use by workers on site, including first aid personnel, and will normally expand on and must always be consistent with first aid measures on the label.

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# Preparation Information Information in this section is designed to help ensure

designed to help ensure compliance with current Material Safety Data Sheets, in that they be no older than three years.



# LABELS

## Supplier and Workplace





## **Supplier Label**

- The supplier label must be included on all WHMIS controlled products before entering Capital Health facilities.
- The label acts to alert you to health dangers of the products, and
- indicate that an MSDS with additional information is available.



## **Supplier Label**

- Has a hash mark border
- Seven pieces of information if the bottle size is 100 ml or more
- Four pieces of information if the bottle size is less than 100 ml
- If the supplier has been granted Trade Secret Rights, they can withhold the product name (and use a generic name) and the Supplier information.



## **Supplier Label**







- A workplace label is added to the container if:
- A controlled product is produced in the workplace
- a controlled product is transferred from an original container to an unlabelled container
- the supplier label cannot be read or is accidentally removed
- All workers must know and understand label symbols on both supplier and workplace labels, and must tell WHMIS trainers when labels need to be replaced.



## Workplace Labels





## **Personal Protective Equipment**

- Offers worker protection from workplace hazards:
- head (eyes and ears)
- body (arms, hands, feet)
- respiratory system



## **Personal Protective Equipment**

PPE does not eliminate the hazard.

If it fails, exposure will occur.

It is only effective if:

- the equipment is properly selected for the situation
- employees are trained in its use
- the equipment is maintained
- the equipment is used by employees



### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT





## **EMERGENCIES**

### **Chemical Spill Response**

Chemical spills are considered emergencies under the Hospital Disaster Plan.

Includes spills involving mercury, biohazardous materials, small and large quantities of chemicals and radioactive materials.

When a spill is discovered, you should call the **EMERGENCY** number 473- 3333.

Chemical spills are identified as CODE BROWN.



## **Reporting Spills**

Also call 473-SAFE (7233) at the earliest opportunity. If necessary, the Accident Prevention Officer will investigate the incident. The information will be entered into the Safety database and statistical analyses assist the development of better and safer preventive measures.



# Handy Reference Guide



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### WHMIS Training Checklist

- I have viewed the WHMIS Orientation Program
- I know the location of the WHMIS Binder
- I know the WHMIS labeling system (What & How)
- I have reviewed all products listed in the MSDS Binder
- I know the procedure for acquiring MSDS and Workplace Labels
- I know the procedure for Reporting Problems or Concerns re: WHMIS

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The WHMIS Quiz

Date:

Print the following pages, take the quiz and return to your WHMIS instructor for your certificate.



Name:



### WHMIS Quiz (please circle correct answer)

### What does WHMIS stand for?

A) Work Hazards and Methods in SafetyB) Workers Handling Materials in SafetyC) Workers Handling of Materials in a SystemD) Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

### Which of the following is NOT part of WHMIS?

- A) Worker education program
- B) Labeling of hazardous materials
- C) Material Safety Data Sheets
- D) Handling of explosives

### Why is WHMIS an Important Piece of Legislation?

- A) Creates employment
- B) Regulates inventories
- C) Standardized work procedures
- D) Alerts people to hazards of materials used in the workplace

### What distinguishes a WHMIS label from other labels?

- A) Its unusual odour
- B) Its special shape
- C) Its unique pale yellow colour
- D) Its distinctive broken slash (hash mark) border

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### Unless new information becomes available, a material safety data sheet is valid for:

- A) 1 yearB) 2 years
- C) 3 years
- D) 5 years

### Information provided on the material safety data sheet must include details about:

- A) safe work procedures
- B) choice of personal protective equipment
- C) procedures to be followed in case of emergency
- D) all of the above

### Training must enable workers to understand procedures for:

- A) purchasing labels for hazardous materials
- B) ordering hazardous materials from supplier
- C) proper filing of the Material Safety Data Sheet
- D) safe handling, use, storage and disposal of a hazardous product