MHSA

A SAFER WORKPLACE STARTS HERE

SAFETY SCOOP

1

Disclaimer

The information presented in this publication is not a definitive guide to government regulations and **does not** relieve persons using this publication from their **responsibilities under applicable legislation**. The appropriate OHS legislation should be **consulted**.

Individual counselling and advice is available from the Manufacturers' Health & Safety Association.

MHSA

2

WHMIS

The letters **W-H-M-I-S** stand for:

- **Workplace**
- **Hazardous**
- **Materials**
- **Information**
- **System**

3

WHMIS

WHMIS is Canada's **national hazard communication system** for hazardous products in the workplace.

It **applies to** suppliers, importers, and distributors of **hazardous products** that are sold in, or imported into, Canada. WHMIS provides **general guidance** for use, handling or storage of controlled substances in Canadian workplaces.

WHMIS is applicable to **employers and workers** who use these products.

4

WHMIS Legislation

The WHMIS requirements are set out in both **federal legislation** and federal, provincial, territorial (FPT) **occupational health and safety** (OHS) legislation.

In Alberta, these requirements are found in **Part 29 of the OHS Code**.

MHSA

5

WHMIS Legislation

Federal Legislation: **Hazardous Products Act**	FPT Legislation: **WHMIS 2015**
Set criteria for the classification of hazardous products and specify the information suppliers are required to provide on labels and safety data sheets (SDS) upon sale of the product.	Requires employers to ensure hazardous products in the workplace are properly labelled, SDS are made available to workers and workers receive education and training on the safe use, handling and storage of these products in the workplace.

MHSA

6

WHMIS Training

While on the worksite, **workers may be exposed** to hazardous products that can cause injuries or diseases. **WHMIS training** provides workers with the safety information needed while **working with or around** hazardous materials.

7

WHMIS Training

There are three key elements to WHMIS. They are:

1) **Labels**

2) **Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)**

3) **Worker education and training**

8

WHMIS Training

Labels - WHMIS labels provide basic information that a worker needs to know in order to handle a hazardous product safely.

9

WHMIS Training

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) - provide more detailed, **technical information** about a product's physical and chemical **characteristics**, its physical and health **hazards**, the **precautionary measures** (prevention, response, storage, and disposal) and **much more** information.

10

WHMIS Training

Worker education and training - worker education provides workers with a **general overview** of WHMIS, the **information** they should expect to find on a **label and SDS**, and what this information means.

Worker training provides workers with **site-specific** information, instructions on how to do their job **safely**, and what to do in case of an **emergency.**

11

WHMIS Application

WHMIS only applies to products that meet certain criteria. When a product meets the criteria to be classified, it is then referred to as a hazardous product.

There are Hazard Groups and Classes applied to the hazardous product.

Hazard **Groups** → Hazard **Classes** → Hazard **Categories**

Two Groups | Multiple Classes | Multiple Categories

12

WHMIS Application

Groups

Under the HPR, there are **two major groups** in which hazardous products may be classified. The hazard groups are **Health hazards** and **Physical hazards**.

Classes

There are 31 hazard classes in total.

- The health hazard group contains 12 hazard classes, and the physical hazard group contains 19 hazard classes.

13

WHMIS Application

Figure 1 - WHMIS Pictograms and their Associated Hazard Classes

(Image provided by CCOHS 2015)

*The Environmental hazard classes and the Explosives hazard class have not been adopted in the HPR.

14

WHMIS Application

Categories (or Types)

Categories are **identified with a number**, and **subcategories** are identified with a number and letter.

Category 1 is the **most hazardous** category with products getting **less hazardous** as the number ascends.

15

WHMIS Application

Example: **Natural Gas**

SECTION 2: Hazard(s) identification

2.1. Classification of the substance or mixture

GHS classification

Flammable Gases - Category 1
Gases Under Pressure - Compressed Gas
Simple Asphyxiants

16

WHMIS Roles & Responsibilities

Supplier and distributor responsibilities

Canadian suppliers and distributors of hazardous products must:

- **classify** each hazardous product that is sold or imported in Canada,
- provide a **valid WHMIS supplier label and SDS** (in both English and French) at the time of sale,
- update WHMIS labels and SDS when **significant new data** becomes available, and
- provide information to a health professional, as **required, in an emergency**.

MHSA

17

WHMIS Roles & Responsibilities

Employer responsibilities

Employers must take **all reasonable measures** to protect the health and safety of workers at the workplace. **WHMIS is one of the tools** employers are required to use to achieve this goal.

The employer is responsible for ensuring that:

- labels and work site labels are updated when significant new data is provided by the supplier,

MHSA

18

WHMIS Roles & Responsibilities

The employer is responsible for ensuring that: (cont…)

- all hazardous products are **labelled** with WHMIS compliant supplier labels, work site labels or other workplace WHMIS identification (Ex: placards or colour coding),
- the SDS for a hazardous product is the **most current** version,
- WHMIS compliant SDSs are **available** at the workplace,
- SDSs are **readily accessible** to workers, and
- workers are provided with appropriate **WHMIS education and training** to protect their health and safety on the job.

MHSA

19

WHMIS Roles & Responsibilities

Worker responsibilities

To ensure their own health and safety and the health and safety of others, workers must:

- **comply** with WHMIS requirements,
- **participate** in WHMIS training and instruction,
- follow the **work procedures provided**, including using control measures and PPE,
- never use a hazardous product unless **trained** through WHMIS education and the product is **properly labeled**,
- know where to find the **SDS** and the procedures to follow in an **emergency**.

MHSA

20

WHMIS - SDS

SDS must have 16 sections of information. Each of the sixteen sections must be identified by a heading and accompanied by a corresponding item number (1-16) placed immediately before the heading.

1. Substance ID	9. Physical & Chemical properties
2. Hazard ID	10. Stability & Reactivity
3. Composition Information	11. Toxicological Information
4. First Aid Measures	12. Ecological Information*
5. Firefighting Measures	13. Disposal Considerations
6. Accidental Release Measures	14. Transport Information
7. Handling & Storage	15. Regulatory Information
8. Exposure Controls	16. Other

MHSA

21

WHMIS

There should be a system for maintaining and accessing SDSs in the workplace, developed in consultation with the joint health and safety committee (HSC) or the health and safety representative, if there is one.

Worker training must include training on the system used in the workplace to access SDSs.

MHSA

22

WHMIS Education & Training

Employers must provide WHMIS training for workers that work with or near a hazardous product.

The training and education must be tailored to the hazardous products at the work site and must be developed in conjunction with the HSC or health and safety representative, if there is one.

23

WHMIS Education & Training

WHMIS worker education and training includes general education about WHMIS and workplace-specific (product and task-specific) training components that apply in the workplace where the hazardous product is used.

24

Reporting Incidents

In the event a worker:

- finds a container with no label or illegible label,
- comes in accidental contact with a corrosive or hazardous chemical,
- spills a chemical or comes across a chemical spill,

it must be reported as soon as possible.

MHSA

25

Conclusion

It is <u>everyone's</u> responsibility in the workplace to be educated, diligent and to take extra care with chemicals.

MHSA

26

Have Questions? Contact us!

Rocky View	Red Deer	Edmonton
403-279-5555	403-343-0002	780-428-1006
rockyview@mhsa.ab.ca	reddeer@mhsa.ab.ca	edmonton@mhsa.ab.ca

To register for a course or access our other Safety Scoops visit https://www.mhsa.ab.ca/

MHSA

27

Thank you!

MHSA

28

Resources

https://whmis.org/jurisdictions/ab.html#whmis-resource-0

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/whmis-2015-information-for-workers

https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/download/sample/531

29