



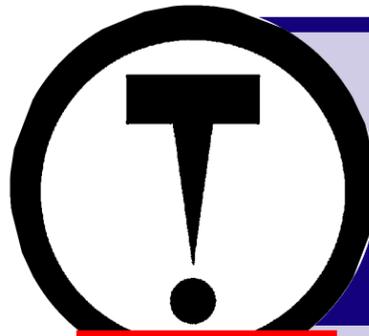
WHMIS

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is Canada's hazard communication standard. The key elements of the system are the labeling of containers of WHMIS "controlled products", the use of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and worker training programs.

Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act in Nova Scotia, all workplaces are required to train their employees on the use of MSDSs and how to recognize and understand WHMIS symbols.

The WHMIS regulations group controlled products into eight categories based on the type of hazard each represents. They are represented here.



Class D-2

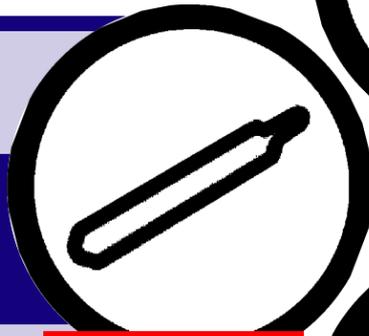
Materials Causing other Toxic Effect

A material that can cause illness over a long time or less serious illness in a short time. Examples: Asbestos, lead, mercury



Biohazardous Infectious Material

Any organism or toxin produced by these organisms that can cause disease in either humans or animals. Examples: Anthrax, Hepatitis, HIV



Class A

Compressed Gas

A material that is a gas at normal room temperature (20°C) and pressure. Examples: Nitrogen, carbon dioxide



Class E

Corrosive Material

A material that can attack (corrode) metals or cause permanent damage to human tissues. Examples: Sulphuric acid, ammonia



Class B

Flammable and Combustible Material

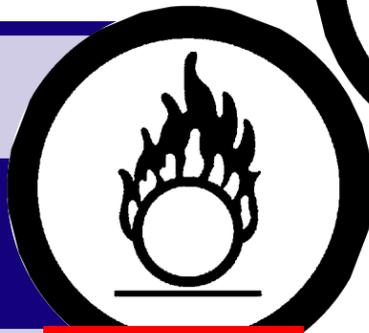
A material that will ignite and continue to burn if exposed to a flame or other source of ignition. Examples: Propane, gasoline



Class F

Dangerously Reactive Material

A material that may react violently under conditions of shock or increase in pressure or temperature. May also react with water to produce a toxic gas. Examples: Ethylene oxide, ozone



Class C

Oxidizing Material

A material that may or may not burn itself, but will release oxygen which contributes to the combustion of another material. Examples: Hydrogen peroxide, bleach



Class D-1

Material Causing Immediate & Serious Toxic Effects

A material that can cause illness quickly. Examples: Formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, cyanide



For more information on WHMIS check out the Department of Environment and Labour website at

www.gov.ns.ca/enla/ohs/
1-800-9LABOUR