



Labour and Advanced Education
Occupational Health and Safety Division

WHMIS Posting and Training Requirements in Nova Scotia

The OHS Division has received inquiries from employers regarding the requirements for Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) training. These enquiries are the result of employers receiving aggressive sales calls from private providers of workplace health and safety training.

The calls imply the need for annual training and/or posting of particular safety posters to be in compliance with the occupational health and safety legislation.

With regards to posting requirements, the NS Occupational Health and Safety Act outlines posting requirements for a workplace. These do not include any kind of 'safety poster'. The basic posting requirements are:

- A copy of the Occupational Health and Safety Act
- The telephone number of the Division for reporting health and safety concerns or accidents
- Names of current Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee members (if required in the workplace), how they may be contacted and minutes of committee meetings
- Copy of an up-to-date Health and Safety policy

There are some additional requirements in the Act and several regulations. These may be found on-line in the guideline [Occupational Health and Safety and Smoke Free Places Posting requirements](#).

With regard to training, the NS WHMIS regulation requires the employer to ensure that employees who work with or in the proximity of a controlled product are instructed in WHMIS topics as they relate to the employees' potential contact. The instruction and training provided to employees concerning controlled products is decided at the workplace in consultation with the joint health and safety committee or representative. The regulation also requires **an annual review of training, but not annual training in WHMIS**. The review must be done in consultation with the joint health and safety committee, or representative, and includes ensuring the MSDS on the hazardous materials is up-to-date and anyone working with the materials has been properly trained and is still knowledgeable with the training. A review is also required if the conditions at the workplace have changed or new information on a controlled product becomes available.

The current NS WHMIS regulations do not provide recommendations for specific training providers; in fact, employers may develop their own materials and conduct their own in-house training to be in compliance

For more information on the NS WHMIS regulations, please consult this on-line [Interpretation Guide for NS WHMIS Regulations](#), which provides an overview of what is required.