

Obligations

Under WHMIS, suppliers, employers and workers have certain obligations.

Employers are those who buy or use controlled products at the workplace or manufacture them. Their obligations are the following:

CONCERNING LABELS

- ◆ Ensure that controlled products arriving at the workplace are adequately labelled
- ◆ Ensure that containers into which controlled products are poured are labelled
- ◆ Prepare and affix labels on containers of controlled products made or used at the workplace
- ◆ Take the necessary measures to prevent the labels from being removed, modified or destroyed

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS

- ◆ Obtain up-to-date MSDS for every controlled product purchased, no later than at the first delivery
- ◆ Prepare MSDS for controlled products made at the workplace
- ◆ Ensure that the MSDS of every product is available and easily accessible to workers, the Health and safety committee and the prevention representative

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

- ◆ Establish an education and information program on controlled products used at the workplace
- ◆ Update the program annually or as soon as changes in circumstances make it necessary, such as when a process is modified
- ◆ Ensure that workers who have taken part in an education and information program are able to apply the knowledge acquired in order to protect their health, safety and physical integrity

Workers are those who use controlled products. They must apply the training they have received on the means to protect their health, safety and physical integrity by taking the following steps:

- ◆ Read labels before handling products
- ◆ Consult the MSDS
- ◆ Follow instructions for safe handling of products
- ◆ Wear appropriate personal protection equipment
- ◆ Notify employer of any problems

Suppliers are those who manufacture, distribute, sell or import hazardous products. They have the following obligations:

- ◆ Evaluate and classify products in order to determine which ones are controlled products
- ◆ Obtain, prepare and transmit the information concerning these products on labels and MSDS
- ◆ Revise and update labels and MSDS as soon as new information on controlled products becomes available, or every three years



WHMIS IS AN ACRONYM FORMED BY THE INITIAL LETTERS OF TERMS DESIGNATING A SYSTEM OF INFORMATION ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY:

WORKPLACE
HASARDOUS
MATERIALS
INFORMATION
SYSTEM



THE **WHMIS** IS A CANADA-WIDE SYSTEM THAT BECAME LAW THROUGH COMPLEMENTARY FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION. IT INCLUDES THREE KEY ELEMENTS: **LABELLING**, **MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS (MSDS)** AND **WORKER EDUCATION PROGRAMS**.

WHMIS

Labelling

There are two types of labels

- ◆ supplier labels
- ◆ workplace labels

Labels must be resistant enough to stay in place on the container under normal conditions of transportation, storage and use. Labels must stand out from other information on containers. In addition, the information on labels must be clearly legible.

SUPPLIER LABELS MUST:

- ◆ Appear on all containers of controlled products received at workplaces in Canada
- ◆ Feature a hatched border of contrasting colour
- ◆ Be written in French and English
- ◆ Contain seven categories of information:
 - Product identifier (name of product)
 - Name of supplier
 - Reference to MSDS
 - Hazard symbols (pictograms of classification)
 - Risk warning
 - Preventive measures
 - First aid instructions

Commercial name, common name, chemical designation, trademark, code name or code number

Identification of risks associated with exposure to product

Precautions for safety use, handling and storage of product

Indication that a MSDS is available

Name of product supplier

Information on first aid care in case of exposure to products

Hasard symbol Pictogram within a circular border representing the class of hazardous material

Hydroxyde de sodium en solution 50% (12,5 N)
Sodium hydroxyde in solution 50% (12,5 N)

RISQUES
Risks

- Matière corrosive
Corrosive material
- Peut corroder ou irriter la peau, les yeux ou les voies respiratoires
Can corrode or irritate skin, eyes or respiratory system
- Incompatible avec les acides
Incompatible with acids
- Éviter tout contact avec la peau et les yeux
Avoid contact with skin and eyes
- Porter un appareil de protection oculaire et des gants
Wear protective glasses and gloves
- En cas de ventilation insuffisante, porter l'appareil respiratoire approprié
Wear respiratory protection if not sufficiently ventilated
- Conserver dans un récipient hermétique, à l'abri des acides, dans un endroit sec
Store in a tight sealed container, away from acids and in dry area
- Conserver dans un endroit avec sol cimenté résistant à la corrosion
Store in an area having corrosion resistant concrete floor

MESURES DE PRÉVENTION
PREVENTIVE MEASURES

PREMIERS SOINS ET PREMIERS SECOURS
FIRST AID

Si incommodé par les vapeurs ou poussières, amener dans un endroit aéré. S'il ne respire pas, donner la respiration artificielle. Appeler un médecin. Rincer les yeux et la peau contaminée avec beaucoup d'eau. Si ingéré, faire boire de l'eau. Ne pas faire vomir. Appeler un médecin.
If disturbed by vapors or dusts, move to a well ventilated area. If breathing stops, administer artificial respiration. Call a doctor. If splashed on skin or in eyes, rinse thoroughly with water. If ingested, give water. Do not induce vomiting. Call a doctor.

Pour plus d'informations, consulter la fiche signalétique.
For more information, see Safety Data Sheet.

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Québec QC A1A 1A1

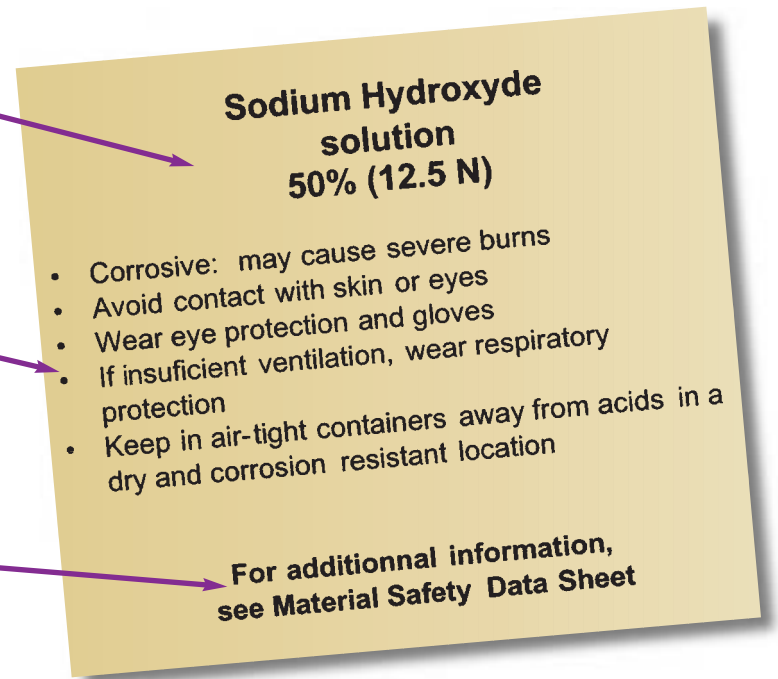
WORKPLACE LABELS MUST:

- ◆ Be applied by employers on containers of controlled products:
 - made at the workplace and used only on the premises
 - transferred from supplier containers into other containers at the workplace
- ◆ Be written in French (translations into other languages may be added)
- ◆ Include three categories of information:
 - Product identification
 - Instructions on safe handling
 - Reference to MSDS

Commercial name, common name, chemical designation, trademark, code name or code number

Information and instructions for safe use, handling and storage of product

Indication that a MSDS is available



In certain situations, other types of identification should appear.

SITUATION

TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION

1. The product is not in a container OR is in a container or in a format for export, OR is in a container packaged for sale and in the process of being labelled	Sign or placard containing the same information as workplace labels: ◆ Product identification ◆ Precautions for safe handling ◆ Reference to MSDS
2. Hazardous residues produced at the workplace	Label, sign or placard: ◆ Product identification ◆ Precautions for safe handling
3. Leaks (gas, liquids or solids released from equipment or product)	Sign or placard: ◆ Identification of leaking substance ◆ Precautions for safe handling or instructions in case of exposure
4. Product transferred to other container and used only in laboratory OR portable container used completely and only by one worker during the work shift	Label (or other) with clear identification of product (e.g. name of product on container) NOTE: Products poured and used immediately, without delay , do not have to be labelled.
5. Products made in the laboratory and used only in the laboratory	Clear identification, such as code number or name
6. Product contained in a transfer or reaction system: ◆ pipe ◆ pipe system ◆ transformation vessel ◆ reaction vessel ◆ tank wagon ◆ tank truck ◆ band conveyor ◆ etc.	Any identification mode, such as: ◆ colour codes ◆ labels ◆ placards ◆ diagrams ◆ etc.

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

The MSDS is a technical sheet which provides specific information on hazardous goods. It is filled in by the supplier or by the employer if a controlled product is manufactured at the workplace.

THE MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET MUST:

- ◆ Be written in French and English
- ◆ Be revised every three years or whenever new information becomes available
- ◆ Contain nine categories of information:
 - Identification and use of product
 - Hazardous components
 - Physicochemical properties
 - Explosivity or flammability
 - Data on reactivity
 - Toxicological properties
 - Preventive measures
 - First aid
 - Information on preparation of MSDS

The image shows two overlapping Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) forms. The top form is titled 'MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET' and 'SECTION 1 - IDENTIFICATION ET UTILISATION DU PRODUIT'. The bottom form is titled 'SECTION 6 - PROPRIÉTÉS TOXICOLOGIQUES'. Purple callout boxes with arrows point to specific sections of the forms:

- Product identification and use (Section 1)
- Hazardous components (Section 2)
- Physicochemical properties (Section 3)
- Flammability or explosivity (Section 4)
- Reactivity (Section 5)
- Toxicological properties (Section 6)
- Preventive measures (Section 7)
- First aid measures (Section 8)
- Information on preparation of MSDS (Section 9)

Worker Education Programs








One of the roles of health and safety committees is to determine the contents of the WHMIS training program for workers.

The **worker education program** must include:

- ◆ Information on the dangers associated with each of the controlled products found at the workplace
- ◆ Sessions on the nature and meaning of the information provided on labels or signs for controlled products and MSDS
- ◆ Instructions to ensure safe use, handling, storage and disposal of controlled products
- ◆ Safety measures in case of leaks and hazardous residues
- ◆ Emergency procedures

Controlled products

WHMIS implies the notion of controlled products, products that may be included in one of the classes of hazardous products described below, divided according to the risks they present.

RISK CATEGORY	SIGNS	MAIN RISKS	EXAMPLES
A Compressed Gas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bursting or projection of container Frostbite Asphyxia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acetylene Oxygen Propane
B Flammable and Combustible Material 1. Flammable Gas 2. Flammable Liquid 3. Combustible Liquid 4. Flammables Solids 5. Flammable Spray 6. Flammable Reactive Material		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire or explosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propane Acetone Acetic acid Coal Clean lube II Sodium dithionite (hydrosulfite)
C Oxidizing Material (Which may cause or activate the combustion of another product)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased risks of fire Explosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxygen Hydrogen peroxide Nitric acid
D Poisonous and Infectious Material			
1. Material with immediate and serious toxic effects (Which may rapidly cause serious health problems, even death)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thorax pains Paralysis of limbs Loss of consciousness Coma Possible death Etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perchloroethylene Carbon oxide Sulfuric acid
2. Material with other toxic effects (Which generally appear after a while further to one or more exposition)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skin and eye irritation Toxic for nervous system Toxic for reproductive system Cancer causing Allergenic Toxic for foetus Etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many dyes Perchloroethylene Toluene Formaldehyde
3. Infectious material		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritation Various diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacteria Rabies virus
E Corrosive Material		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corrosion of containers Severe chemical burns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caustic soda Sulphuric Acid
F Dangerously Reactive Material		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explosion, heat, projection Highly toxic gas release 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sodium dithionite (hydrosulfite)