

DO YOU NEED TO KNOW WHMIS

The central image is a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for Methanol, presented in both English and French. It is surrounded by eight WHMIS hazard symbols: Corrosive (C), Flammable (F), Health Hazard (H), Toxic (T), Environment (E), and others.

METHANOL
DANGER
POISONOUS/FLAMMABLE

- Keep away from heat, sparks and flame
- avoid contact with open and skin
- do not inhale vapours or mist
- do not swallow
- harmful if absorbed through the skin

PRECAUTIONS

- wear chemical goggles and resistant gloves
- wash thoroughly after handling
- keep container tightly closed

FIRST AID

- in case of contact, flush eyes and skin with water for 15 minutes
- if swallowed, before vomiting
- get medical attention immediately

MÉTHANOL
DANGER
POISONNEUX/FLAMMABLE

- Éloigner de la chaleur, des étincelles et des flammes
- évitez tout contact avec les yeux et la peau
- ne pas respirer les vapeurs
- ne pas avaler
- nocif, si absorbé par la peau

PRÉCAUTIONS

- porter des lunettes protectrices et des gants résistants
- ne jamais s'endormir après usage
- garder le récipient bien fermé

PREMIÈRES SOINS

- en cas de contact avec les yeux ou la peau, rincer à grande eau pendant 15 minutes
- si avalé, provoquer le vomissement
- obtenir des soins médicaux immédiats

SEE MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET
VOIR FICHE SIGNALÉTIQUE

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This education program provides a guideline for creating a safe work environment. It is intended to give contractors and workers information to determine if they require training in the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.

This education program contains general information. For specific regulatory requirements, please consult the appropriate regulation(s) adopted under the Workplace Safety and Health Act and the Canadian Safety Association Standards (CSA)

W H M I S - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

Every day in our construction industry, we work with materials. It is a necessary part of our construction work that is simply a matter of fact. Some of these materials have the potential to cause injury, illness or death; in other words, they are hazardous to our safety and health.

WHMIS - The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System is a nationwide system that provides information on how to safely use, store and handle these type of hazardous materials used in the workplace. These hazardous materials are called *controlled products*.

These controlled products are classified into the following six main categories:



Class A Compressed Gas



Class B Flammable / Combustible Material



Class C Oxidizing Material

Class D Poisonous and Infectious Material



D – 1 Immediate Toxic Effects



D – 2 Other Toxic Effects



D – 3 Biohazardous



Class E Corrosive Material



Class F Dangerously Reactive Material

WHMIS is legislated by law, requiring any workplace with hazardous materials to inform their workers of all potential dangers and how they can protect against them through workplace specific education and training. The law that applies here in Manitoba is the Manitoba Regulation 52 / 88.

The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System that workers need to know about has three main elements to prepare them:

LABELS

MSDS

EMPLOYEE EDUCATION

LABELS

WHMIS labels are used to identify and alert workers that the material they are using is hazardous. The WHMIS labels have a slashed border and hazardous symbols to help you identify controlled products quickly.

It is legislated by law that all controlled products be labeled before they enter the workplace. Normally, a supplier label is attached, but if not, you must attached a workplace label stating the products name, how to safely handle and indicate the availability of a MSDS. This also applies if you decant or put into a different container.



MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet)

A material safety data sheet is supplied by the manufacturer or supplier and must be no later than 3 years old. The MSDS gives detailed information on the product including preventative and emergency procedures. These must be readily accessible to all workers at any time.

Employee Education

The employer is required to explain the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System to all workers and must train those who work with or in proximity to a controlled product.

This training is to be workplace specific and include instruction in the purpose, content and significance of supplier labels, workplace labels and MSDS's. Training must include the procedures for the safe use of controlled products, handling, storage, disposal and emergency procedures involved with controlled products.

If you need to know WHMIS, contact the Manitoba Building Contractors Safety Program for training that will meet the legislative requirements.

SELF-TEST REVIEW

1. List the three main elements of WHMIS:

2. Hazardous materials are referred to as _____.

3. WHMIS labels have a _____ border and _____ to help you identify hazardous materials quickly.

4. If a supplier label is not readable, missing or if you decant it to another container, a _____ label must be attached.

5. MSDS's must be no later than _____ years old.

6. MSDS's must be available to all workers within 24 hrs of exposure T F

7. Workers in proximity to controlled products must be trained in WHMIS T F

8. Controlled products are classified into 8 categories T F