



A Guide to WHMIS

The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

- training in procedures for special storage systems (such as piping systems), for work in the presence of hazardous emissions and for emergencies involving controlled products
- product-specific training on health and safety hazards

The program must deliver the information that the individual needs in order to work safely with a controlled product. It must be kept current. If there is a joint occupational health and safety committee or health and safety representative, then they should be involved in designing the program.

Trade secrets

If an employer produces or receives a controlled product for use in their workplace and the employer contends that certain information constitutes a trade secret, they may get a limited exemption under the Disclosure of Information Regulations. If an exemption is allowed, then the employer must insert an emergency telephone number on the WHMIS label or MSDS so that a treating physician or nurse can get the specific chemical identity of a hazardous product in a medical emergency.

For products that are shipped out of province to other Canadian jurisdictions, applications will need to be made to the Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission. The process is described and forms are available at www.hmirc-ccrmd.gc.ca.

How WHMIS Affects Employees

Worker knowledge and use of WHMIS labeling is the mainstay of its success on the job. The employee's role is to:

- receive and learn information on controlled products that the employer provides
- inform the employer if there is not enough information on a controlled product to ensure worker health and safety
- work with the employer to develop, implement, and review programs of instruction on controlled products

Workplace Safety and Insurance System

In Nova Scotia the partners in the Workplace Safety and Insurance System include workers, employers, the Workers'Advisers Program (WAP), the Workers'Compensation Appeals Tribunal (WCAT), the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Division, the Workers'Compensation Board (WCB) and others who provide service in the System.

For information on the System, the government partners and the services we provide, visit us at www.wsis.ns.ca.

Where to Get Help

Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Workforce Development
Occupational Health and Safety Division
P.O. Box 697
Halifax, NS B3J 2T8
Telephone: (902) 424-5400 (Halifax area only)
Toll Free: (800) 952-2687 (NS only)
Fax: (902) 424-5640
Website: www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/healthandsafety

Hazardous Materials Information
Review Commission
427 Laurier Avenue West, 7th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 1M3
Telephone: (613) 993-4331
Fax: (613) 993-4686
Website: www.hmirc-ccrmd.gc.ca/

Canadian Centre for
Occupational Health and Safety
135 Hunter Street East
Hamilton, ON L8N 1M5
Telephone: (905) 570-8094
Toll Free: (800) 668-4284 (Canada only)
Fax: (905) 572- 2206
Website: www.ccohs.ca

This pamphlet is a summary only. Refer to the original laws for more detailed information.



Labour and Workforce Development
Occupational Health and Safety