

# WHMIS

**Objective:** to familiarize crew members with the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.

**Training Materials:** Product label and corresponding Material Safety Data Sheet.

**Lesson:** *WHIMIS is short for Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System. It refers to legislation that covers hazardous materials used in Canadian workplaces. Hazardous materials are biological or chemical agents that can cause or inflict injury or possibly death, if not properly handled. All employees have the right to know about any hazardous materials on their jobsite. WHIMIS is intended to give workers knowledge and information they can understand and use to protect their health and safety every day.*

**Hazardous materials covered by WHIMIS include:**

- Dangerously reactive material
- Flammable and combustible material
- Compressed Gas
- Oxidizing material
- Poisonous and infectious material
- Corrosive material

WHIMIS mandates that each employee handling materials covered by WHIMIS legislation be aware of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the specific product, as well as how to implement the safe procedures indicated

WHIMIS training is two-fold and includes education about the hazardous products as well as training in work procedures including use, storage, handling, disposal, emergencies and spills.

Always be familiar with the hazards of a product before you start using it. You should look at a MSDS, match the name of the chemical on your container to the one on the MSDS, know the hazards, understand safe handling and storage instructions, as well as understand what to do in an emergency.

Information included on the MSDS:

1. Product information: product identifier (name), manufacturer and suppliers names, addresses, and emergency phone numbers
  2. Hazardous Ingredients
  3. Physical Data
  4. Fire or Explosion Data
  5. Reactivity Data: information on the chemical instability of a product and the substances it may react with
  6. Toxicological Properties: health effects
  7. Preventative Measures
  8. First Aid Measures
  9. Preparation Information: who is responsible for preparation and date of preparation of MSDS
- Under WHIMIS law, a MSDS for

a controlled product must be updated every three years. If new information becomes available before the three years has elapsed, the supplier is required to update the product label and MSDS.

- *The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) must be readily available to the workers who are exposed to the controlled product and to the health and safety committee or representative.*
- *WHIMIS is short for Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.*

