WHMIS Toolbox Talk

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions on the job site.

The Latest WHMIS Updates

In December of 2022, Canada amended the Hazardous Product Regulations (HPR) to align with provisions of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). The amendments introduced some key changes to WHMIS that workers , employers, and suppliers need to know about.

WHMIS History up to this Point

The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is Canada's national hazard communication standard. It was created in 1988 to communicate important health and safety information about the hazardous products that employers and workers might be exposed to while at work. It remained relatively unchanged until 2015, when WHMIS was updated to align with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). Since then, the amended legislation in Canada has been known as WHMIS 2015.

Key Changed

WHMIS 2015 will now be known as just WHMIS. For most workplaces, the most significant impacts of the transition will be the adoption of a new physical class, Chemicals Under Pressure, the adoption of a non-flammable aerosols hazard category, and new subcategories for flammable gases.

There are several revisions to the information elements required on safety data sheets and labels also exist. New elements were introduced, including boiling point, flammability, kinematic viscosity, density and relative density, relative vapour density and particle characteristics. Some elements were removed. A safety data sheet can still provide the removed information elements as additional information, as long as it is not false or misleading.

Employers in every industry that uses, stores or handles hazardous products will need to update their training programs to help workers learn and understand the new WHMIS changes. Knowledge is power when it comes to hazardous products. These amendments are designed to provide more comprehensive and detailed health and safety information on product labels and safety data sheets, which will provide better protection for workers.

Transition Period

Suppliers have until December 14, 2025, to bring their safety data sheets and labels into compliance with the amended regulations. During this transition period, regulated parties can choose to comply with either the former HPR or the amended HPR, but not both. The hazard classification, safety data sheet and label of a hazardous product must be fully compliant with the version of the regulation chosen. This means that for the product to be compliant with the amended WHMIS, both the safety data sheet and label must meet the requirements of the amended WHMIS.

Toolbox Attendance

Questions? _____

_____

Concerns? _____

_____

Days since Last Incident: _____

Supervisor/Meeting Leader: _____ Date: _____

Signatures of attendees:

Manager review comments:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Manager signature: _____ Date of Review:_____