

WHMIS Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

WHMIS is the system in Canada used for classifying and labelling hazardous workplace chemicals. This system has been updated to align with the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for classifying and labelling chemicals. From now until December 1, 2018, your employer can still use existing WHMIS 1988 labelling and hazard symbols on products. After that date, your employer must discard all WHMIS 1988 labelled products or re-label them to conform to WHMIS 2015. In the meantime, you will likely see both types of labels and hazard symbols in your workplace.

The table below helps you through this transition period by showing WHMIS 1988 hazard symbols alongside equivalent WHMIS 2015 symbols. For more detailed information on any controlled product in the workplace, be sure to check the WHMIS label and the relevant Safety Data Sheet.

WHMIS 1988 Hazard Class	WHMIS 1988 Symbols	WHMIS 2015 Symbols	WHMIS 2015 Hazard Class
A			Gas Cylinder Gas Under Pressure
B Division 1 to 6			Flame Flammable, Self-reactive, Pyrophoric, Self-heating, In Contact with Water Emits Flammable Gases, Organic Peroxide
C			Flame Over Circle Oxidizing Gases, Liquids, Solids
D1			Skull and Crossbones Acute Toxicity (fatal or toxic) Exclamation Mark Irritation (skin or eyes), Respiratory or Skin Sensitization, Specific Target Organ Toxicity
D2			Health Hazard Carcinogenicity Mutagenicity Reproductive Hazards Exclamation Mark - same as above
D3			Biohazardous Infectious Materials
E			Corrosion Skin Eye Corrosion/Irritation Corrosive to Metals
F			Exploding Bomb Self-reactive, Explosive, Organic Peroxide
N/A	N/A		Health Hazard Aspiration Hazard, Specific Target Organ Toxicity (Single Exposure, Repeated Exposure)
N/A	N/A	Appropriate symbol required	Physical Hazards Not Otherwise Classified, Health Hazards Not Otherwise Classified