

WHMIS labels: read before you use

Hazardous products must be identified so workers know the risks and the safe way to handle them. The label is the first thing you see and the SDS is the full detail.

Key points

- A supplier label on the original container shows the product identifier, hazard pictogram(s), signal word (Danger or Warning), hazard statements, precautionary statements and the supplier's identity. Supplier labels are bilingual (English and French).
- Do not remove or deface a supplier label. If it is lost or unreadable, tell your supervisor so it can be replaced.
- When a product is decanted into another container, that container needs a workplace label, with limited exceptions such as portable containers for immediate use.
- A workplace label shows the product name matching the SDS, safe handling information and a reference to the SDS.
- The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) must be readily available to workers. Know where the SDS binder or system is.
- If a product is not labelled, do not use it. Ask your supervisor.

Ask the crew

- Where are the SDSs kept for this area?
- Which containers here have been decanted and are they labelled?
- Can everyone name the pictograms on the products we use?

Where this comes from

OHS Regulation, ss. 5.8 to 5.10 (labels) and 5.14 to 5.16 (SDS) (Part 5 Chemical and Biological Substances)

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-05-chemical-and-biological-substances>

Health Canada: WHMIS supplier requirements guidance

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/occupational-health-safety/workplace-hazardous-materials-information-system/supplier-hazard-communication-requirements-whmis/guidance.html>

Your site's own procedures and the equipment manufacturer's instructions always apply. This sheet is general information, not legal advice.

Sign-off sheet

Date: _____ Location: _____ Presented by: _____

Name (print)	Signature	Date