

WHMIS 2015 hazard pictograms

The nine pictograms used on WHMIS 2015 supplier labels in Canada. Print, post near where hazardous products are stored, and use it in your WHMIS training.



Flame



Flame over circle



Exploding bomb



Gas cylinder



Corrosion



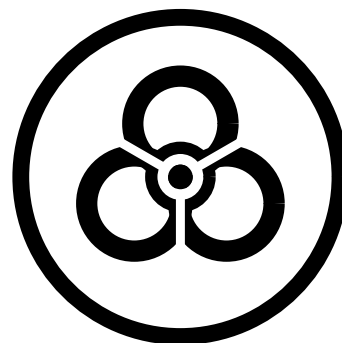
Skull and crossbones



Exclamation mark



Health hazard



Biohazardous infectious materials

Which pictograms appear on a label depends on the product's hazard classification. A product may carry more than one, and some carry none. The environment pictogram used in other countries is not part of WHMIS 2015. The biohazard pictogram here is a simplified drawing for training use; see the official artwork in the Hazardous Products Regulations.

What each pictogram means



Flame

Flammable gases, aerosols, liquids and solids; self-reactive substances; pyrophoric products; self-heating products; products that emit flammable gas in contact with water; organic peroxides.



Flame over circle

Oxidizing gases, liquids and solids.



Exploding bomb

Explosives; self-reactive substances and organic peroxides (Type A or B).



Gas cylinder

Gases under pressure.



Corrosion

Corrosive to metals; skin corrosion; serious eye damage.



Skull and crossbones

Acute toxicity (fatal or toxic).



Exclamation mark

Acute toxicity (harmful); skin and eye irritation; skin sensitization; specific target organ toxicity (single exposure, category 3); respiratory tract irritation; narcotic effects.



Health hazard

Carcinogenicity; respiratory sensitization; reproductive toxicity; germ cell mutagenicity; specific target organ toxicity; aspiration hazard.



Biohazardous infectious materials

Microorganisms, nucleic acids or proteins that cause or probably cause infection in humans or animals (a WHMIS hazard class kept in addition to the UN GHS classes).

Reading WHMIS 2015 labels and SDSs

Supplier label (on the container as received)

- Product identifier (the product name, matching the SDS)
- Initial supplier identifier (name, address and phone number)
- Pictogram(s) for the product's hazard classification (some products have none)
- Signal word: Danger (more severe) or Warning (less severe)
- Hazard statement(s) describing the nature and degree of the hazard
- Precautionary statement(s): prevention, response, storage and disposal
- Supplemental label information, where applicable. Supplier labels are bilingual (English and French).

Workplace label (employer-applied)

- Needed when a product is decanted into another container, produced at the workplace, or when a supplier label is lost or unreadable (limited exceptions apply, such as portable containers for immediate use)
- Shows the product name matching the SDS, information for safe handling, and a reference to the SDS where one is available
- Workplace label requirements are set by provincial and territorial law. In B.C. see OHS Regulation ss. 5.9 and 5.10.

Safety Data Sheet (SDS): 16 sections

1. Identification	9. Physical and chemical properties
2. Hazard identification	10. Stability and reactivity
3. Composition and ingredients	11. Toxicological information
4. First-aid measures	12. Ecological information*
5. Fire-fighting measures	13. Disposal considerations*
6. Accidental release measures	14. Transport information*
7. Handling and storage	15. Regulatory information*
8. Exposure controls and personal protection	16. Other information

* Sections 12 to 15 are not mandatory in Canada but are normally included. In B.C. the employer must make SDSs readily available to workers (OHS Regulation s. 5.16).

Sources

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>

CCOHS: WHMIS pictograms

https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/whmis_ghs/pictograms.html

WorkSafeBC OHS Regulation Part 5 (WHMIS)

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

Want everyone on your crew trained? Need your crew trained? See our online WHMIS course at gamasafety.ca/courses/whmis