

Module 3 - WHMIS 2015 – Labels

Are there different types of labels?

What information is required on a supplier label?

What is a signal word, a hazard statement and a precautionary statement?

Supplier labels

What information will be required on a workplace label?

Are there different types of labels?

There are two main types of WHMIS labels: supplier labels, and workplace labels.

A supplier label is provided or affixed (attached) by the supplier and will appear on all hazardous products received at a workplace in Canada. If the hazardous product is always used in the container with the supplier label, no other label is required.

A workplace label is required when:

- ❖ a hazardous product is produced (made) at the workplace and used in that workplace,
- ❖ a hazardous product is decanted (e.g., transferred or poured) into another container, or
- ❖ a supplier label becomes lost or illegible (unreadable).

There are two situations when a workplace label is not necessary. When a hazardous product is:

- ❖ poured into a container and it is going to be used immediately, or
- ❖ "under the control of the person who decanted it". For example, when the person who poured the product into another container will be the only person who will use it, and the product will be used during one shift, a full workplace label may not be required. However, the container must still be identified with the product identifier (name).

What information is required on a supplier label?

Supplier labels must be written in English and French. They may be bilingual (as one label), or available as two labels (one each in English and French).

The supplier label must include the following information:

- ❖ Product identifier - the brand name, chemical name, common name, generic name or trade name of the hazardous product.
- ❖ Initial supplier identifier – the name, address and telephone number of either the Canadian manufacturer or the Canadian importer.
- ❖ Pictogram(s) – hazard symbol within a red "square set on one of its points".
- ❖ Signal word – a word used to alert the reader to a potential hazard and to indicate the severity of the hazard.
- ❖ Hazard statement(s) - standardized phrases which describe the nature of the hazard posed by a hazardous product.
- ❖ Precautionary statement(s) – standardized phrases that describe measures to be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a hazardous product or resulting from improper handling or storage of a hazardous product.

What is a signal word?

A signal word is a prompt that alerts you about the degree or level of hazard of the product. There are only two signal words used: "Danger" or "Warning". "Danger" is used for high risk hazards, while "Warning" is used for less severe hazards.

Some hazard classes or categories do not have a signal word assigned to them.

What is a hazard statement?

Each hazard class and category has an assigned "hazard statement". Hazard statements are brief, standardized sentences that tell you more about the exact hazard of the product. The statements are short but they describe the most significant hazards of the product.

Examples of hazard statements are:

- ❖ Extremely flammable gas.
- ❖ Contains gas under pressure; may explode if heated.
- ❖ Fatal if inhaled.
- ❖ Causes eye irritation.
- ❖ May cause cancer.

What is a precautionary statement?

Precautionary statements provide advice on how to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a hazardous product or resulting from improper storage or handling of a hazardous product. These statements can include instructions about storage, handling, first aid, personal protective equipment and emergency measures.

There are five types of precautionary statements:

- ❖ General.
- ❖ Prevention.
- ❖ Response (including first aid).
- ❖ Storage.
- ❖ Disposal.

Examples of precautionary statements are:

- ❖ Keep container tightly closed.
- ❖ Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.
- ❖ If exposed or concerned: Get medical advice/attention.
- ❖ Fight fire remotely due to the risk of explosion.
- ❖ Protect from sunlight.
- ❖ Precautionary statements will be consistent with the degree of the hazard associated with the product.



What will a supplier label look like?

There is no set format for a supplier label. As mentioned, labels must be in English and French. They may be bilingual (as one label), or be presented as two labels (one each in English and one in French).

Labels will require the following:

- ❖ the pictogram, signal word, and hazard statement are to be grouped together,
- ❖ to be clearly and prominently displayed on the container,
- ❖ to be easy to read (e.g., you can see it easily without using any item except corrective glasses), and
- ❖ to be in contrast with other information on the product or container.

1 Product ABC / Produit ABC

2  

3 Danger
Fatal if swallowed.
Causes skin irritation.

4 **Danger**
Mortel en cas d'ingestion.
Provoque une irritation cutanée.

5 **Precautions:**
Wear protective gloves.
Wash hands thoroughly after handling.
Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.

Store locked up.
Dispose of contents/containers in accordance with local regulations.

IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of water.
If skin irritation occurs: Get medical advice or attention.
Take off contaminated clothing and wash it before reuse.
IF SWALLOWED: Immediately call a POISON CENTRE or doctor.
Rinse mouth.

Conseils :
Porter des gants de protection.
Se laver les mains soigneusement après manipulation. Ne pas manger, boire ou fumer en manipulant ce produit.

Garder sous clef.
Éliminer le contenu/récipient conformément aux règlements locaux en vigueur.

EN CAS DE CONTACT AVEC LA PEAU : laver abondamment à l'eau.
En cas d'irritation cutanée : Demander un avis médical/consulter un médecin.
Enlever les vêtements contaminés et les laver avant réutilisation.
EN CAS D'INGESTION : Appeler immédiatement un CENTRE ANTIPOISON ou un médecin.
Rincer la bouche.

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1. Product Identifier
Identificateur de produit
2. Hazard Pictogram
Pictogrammes de danger
3. Signal Words (NEW)
Mentions d'avertissement (NOUVEAU)
4. Hazard Statements
Mentions de danger
5. Precautionary Statements
Conseils de prudence
6. Supplier Identifier
Identificateur de fournisseur

When will a supplier label have to be updated?

A label will be required to be updated when the supplier becomes aware of any "significant new data". Labels will be required to be updated within 180 days of the supplier being aware of the new information.

What information will be required on a workplace label?

- ❖ Product name (matching the SDS product name).
- ❖ Safe handling precautions may include pictograms or other supplier label information.
- ❖ A reference to the SDS (if available).