

WORKING WITH WHMIS CONTROLLED PRODUCTS

There are many WHMIS controlled products in industrial workplaces. You likely use these products regularly, but how familiar are you with them? The health and safety of you and your coworkers relies on your knowledge.

Before using an unfamiliar controlled product, read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) to familiarize yourself and focus closely on the key information.

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH:

- IDENTIFYING THE HAZARDS
- ASSESSING THE HAZARDS
- CONTROLLING THE HAZARDS



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IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS

The SDS (Safety Data Sheet) will provide you with a synopsis of the physical and health hazards of a product. Typically, there will be a PICTOGRAM showing the classification of the product such as compressed gas or flammable. This image will be followed by a SIGNAL WORD (i.e. Warning) and a HAZARD STATEMENT (i.e. Causes eye irritation).

ASSESS THE HAZARDS

The SDS provides information on how to avoid direct or indirect exposure to the product.

- The prevention steps will relate to the Hazard Statement.
- Carefully read the first-aid measures and treatment for the various forms of contact with the product.
- Know what to do in an emergency situation before you use the product.

CONTROL THE HAZARDS

The SDS provides exposure control and personal protection information including PPE requirements such as eye, hand and respiratory protection.

- Specific PPE may be required for spills as well as spill containment and proper spill kit use.

REMEMBER

Use WHMIS controlled products safely and understand the SDS information. If needed, contact the safety coordinator for clarification. Workers have the right to know workplace product hazards.

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