

WHMIS Training Programs



Hundreds of thousands of chemical substances are used in workplaces every day. Many of these substances have never been tested for their toxicity. Often these products have incomplete hazard information. The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is a legal framework designed to help address some of these concerns by providing information about workplace hazardous materials through labels, material safety data sheets (MSDSs) and worker education programs.

Ontario's WHMIS regulation requires employers to provide proper training to anyone likely to handle, store or otherwise be exposed to hazardous material at work. Additionally, employers must develop and implement WHMIS training in consultation with the joint health and safety committee (JHSC) or health and safety representative. At least once a year employers must review worker's familiarity with WHMIS and specific workplace hazard information conveyed.

The Workers Health & Safety Centre (WHSC) offers several training programs geared to meet all of these WHMIS training requirements.

WHMIS — Our Right to Know

Program Duration: 6 hours

NOTE: A similar WHMIS training opportunity is available in French, Cantonese, Italian, Portuguese and Punjabi.

This comprehensive training program is designed to help all workplace parties understand and exercise their legal right to know about workplace hazardous materials. Through an engaging and interactive format, participants will learn about the structure and requirements on products' labels and MSDSs. A review of this hazard information will help participants identify and work safely with hazardous materials. The program also examines how to plan and prepare for emergency situations involving hazardous substances.

The program will review legal requirements for the following WHMIS components: the six hazard classes; hazardous product labels; MSDSs; and worker education programs.

Critical hazard information is explained in the context of occupational health and identifies measures to protect worker health. By reviewing the elements of an effective hazard control program participants will be better equipped to assess their own workplace WHMIS program.

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WHMIS Training Programs *cont'd*

WHMIS at Work

Program Duration: 3 hours

This program reviews the legal requirements for WHMIS with the use of workplace-specific learning aids. Participants will better understand and assess key hazard information using MSDSs drawn from their own workplace (where possible). The MSDSs will inform discussions and group exercises as participants review hazard information, exposure prevention measures, and first aid measures. This hands-on approach will help participants understand and gain competence in reading and analyzing MSDSs in their workplace and then relating this hazard information to their own health and safety.

WHMIS Review

Program Duration: 3 hours

Under WHMIS Regulation employers are required to conduct an annual review or assessment of workers' WHMIS knowledge and workplace-specific hazard information. The review may occur more often as recommended by the JHSC or where workplace changes like the introduction of a new chemical or the availability of new information could affect worker health and safety.

This program is designed to assist in those instances where it is determined a WHMIS refresher is necessary. It provides an overview of the main legal rights and duties under Ontario's WHMIS Regulation. Participants will also review key hazard information legally required on product labels and MSDSs and the availability of both in the workplace.

This program is for all workplace parties who have completed a comprehensive WHMIS program. It is not intended as a replacement for the comprehensive *WHMIS — Our Right to Know* program.

Ontario WHMIS laws were amended on July 1, 2016 to change the way hazardous product information is delivered to workers, including new training obligations. These amendments to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and WHMIS Regulation include incorporating elements of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, commonly known as GHS. The purpose of GHS is to standardize, on a global scale, a hazardous product communication system.

Employers were given a transition period until December 1, 2018 to comply with the GHS amendments.

During this transition, **employers must train workers in both systems**. GHS WHMIS can become the sole focus of worker training only when all products with the original WHMIS labels and MSDSs are no longer used in the workplace. The three programs listed here are designed to help employers meet their original WHMIS training obligations. The WHSC also offers both in-class and e-learning GHS WHMIS programs to assist towards training compliance.

To fully comply with WHMIS requirements, employers must also develop and implement a workplace-specific education and training program including safe work procedures.

For more information or to register:

Call: 1-888-869-7950 and ask to speak to a training services representative, or
Visit: www.whsc.on.ca



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