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POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

SUBJECT: WHMIS 2015	POLICY NO.: 2.12 PAGE 14 of 14
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Appendix B: WHMIS 1988 vs WHMIS 2015 (GHS) Comparison Chart

WHMIS 1988 vs WHMIS 2015 (GHS) Comparison Chart

WHMIS 1988 Hazard Class	WHMIS 1988 Symbols	WHMIS 2015 Symbol(s)	WHMIS 2015 Hazard Class
A			Gases Under Pressure
B1 to B6			Flammables, Self-Heating, Emit Flammable Gases, Pyrophoric Gases, Liquids & Solids Organic Peroxides
C			Oxidizing Gases, Liquids, Solids
D1			Acute Toxicity - Oral, Dermal, Inhalation
D2			Eye Irritation, Skin Irritation Skin/Respiratory Sensitization, Carcinogenicity Mutagenicity Reproductive Hazards
D3			Biohazardous Infectious Materials
E			Skin/Eye Corrosion Corrosive to Metals
F			Self-Reactive Substances Organic Peroxides
N/A	N/A		Explosive Substances (Explosives are still covered under WHMIS exclusions for now)
N/A	N/A		Aspiration, STOT (Single Exposure, Repeated Exposure)
N/A	N/A	N/A	Combustible Dusts
N/A	N/A	N/A	Simple Asphyxiants
N/A	N/A	Use appropriate symbol	Physical Hazards Not Otherwise Classified, Health Hazards Not Otherwise Classified

WHMIS 2015

WHMIS 2015/GHS has nine pictograms used to classify and label chemicals. A label or SDS that is compliant with the United States Hazard Communication Standard (2012) may not be sufficient for compliance in Canada. The supplier must be compliant with the Canadian requirements, whether the CPR or the HPR. It is expected that a biohazard symbol will be introduced through provincial legislation. Learn to identify the hazards identified by the GHS pictograms:



Flame: flammable, self-reactive, pyrophoric, self-heating, in contact with water, emits flammable gases, organic peroxide



Exclamation mark: irritation (skin or eyes), skin sensitization, acute toxicity (harmful), specific target organ toxicity (single exposure), hazardous to the ozone layer



Health hazard: carcinogenicity, respiratory sensitization, reproductive toxicity, specific target organ – single or repeated exposure, germ cell mutagenicity, aspiration hazard



Skull and crossbones: acute toxicity (fatal or toxic)



Exploding bomb: explosive, self-reactive, organic peroxide



Flame over circle: oxidizer



Corrosion: corrosive



Gas cylinder: gas under pressure



Environment: hazardous to the aquatic environment (acute or long term)



Biohazard: infectious materials. Symbol yet to be confirmed

The same symbol can represent more than one hazard class (i.e. carcinogenicity, germ cell mutagenicity, respiratory sensitizer, etc.)

In addition, one hazard class can have more than one symbol (i.e. acute toxicity: categories 1, 2 and 3 versus category 4).