

WHMIS Controlled Products

Under the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), a controlled product:

- is any substance which is a compressed gas, an oxidizing material, or a substance that is poisonous, infectious, flammable, combustible, corrosive or dangerously reactive and
- meets the criteria in *The Controlled Products Regulations*.

There is no master list of controlled products.

How do I determine which products in my workplace are controlled products?

- Check the list of harmful substances.

Every employer is required to keep a list of regularly used products that may be a hazard to workers or of concern to workers. Any product with a hazard warning could be a controlled product.

- Check for WHMIS labels.

If the product arrives with a WHMIS label, it is a controlled product.

- Check for exemptions.

The following products are exempt from labels and material safety data sheet (MSDS) requirements, but not from worker education provisions. Employers must inform workers of the hazards of these products and provide worker training on safe handling procedures:

- consumer products
- pesticides (pest control product number is on label)
- drugs (with Drug Identification Number [DIN#])
- food
- cosmetics
- radioactive materials (with radiation symbol)
- explosives (that carry the word EXPLOSIVE)

Hazardous waste does not require a label, but it must be identified. Wood, tobacco and manufactured articles are totally exempt from WHMIS. However, workers still must be made aware of potential risks and safe handling procedures.

- Contact your suppliers.

Your suppliers should be able to tell you if their products are controlled products.

- Check for Transportation of Dangerous Goods labeling.

If the product is listed under Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, it is very likely a controlled product.

- Check with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) Inquiry Service at 1-800-263-8466 or the following website:
www.reptox.csst.qc.ca/documents/simdut/listeang/htm/listeang.htm

If you have the name of the supplier of a chemical in question and the trade name of the product, the Centre may be able to tell you if it falls under WHMIS. Phone 1-800-263-8466.

- Check the ingredients.

If the product contains more than one percent of a known controlled product or 0.1 percent of a cancer causing chemical, reproductive system hazard, respiratory sensitizer or a mutagen, the whole product will probably fall under WHMIS. Contact the supplier.

See reverse ...

