1. Whenever possible, a hazardous product must be replaced with a non-hazardous product.

2. All necessary precautions must be taken for the controlled products used, taking into consideration their related risks indicated on the material safety data sheets.

3. The department head must ensure that all controlled products used are accompanied by a WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) label and a material safety data sheet in French (in some cases, material safety data sheets in other languages may also be available).

Some products (for example, explosives, cosmetics, drugs, food, consumer products and pest control products) are not governed by WHMIS, but a material safety data sheet often exists. It is recommended that it be used.

4. Material safety data sheets must be kept up to date (three years or less). Otherwise, the head of the department using the controlled products must contact the suppliers to obtain new material safety data sheets.

5. The members of the production crew must have easy access to the material safety data sheets for the controlled products present on the site.

6. When a controlled product is transferred from one container to another, a label must be prepared and affixed to the new container, or the name of the product clearly indicated, depending on the case. A product must not be transferred to a container that has already contained hazardous products, unless the container has been cleaned beforehand.

7. The supplier’s label for a controlled product must be in good condition and bilingual. In Québec, labels produced on the work site must be in French and include:
   • the name of the product;
   • the precautions to be taken when it is handled, used, and in the event of exposure; and
   • mention of the existence of the material safety data sheet.

This information may be presented in another language in addition to French.

8. The producer must ensure that all workers have received proper general training on controlled products. The training sessions must include:
   • a presentation on WHMIS;
   • a presentation on the nature and significance of the information presented on the label and in the material safety data sheet; and
   • information on the safety precautions to be taken.

This training must be given every three years.

9. In his contracts, the producer must include a clause stipulating that subcontractors who use controlled products have implemented a training and information program as defined in the Regulation respecting information on controlled products and that they have trained their employees. The training and information program must be updated annually.

10. No one may use, handle or store a controlled product unless he has received the required training and information to do it safely. The safety instructions must be followed.

11. Products that could react dangerously must never be mixed in the same container.

12. An unidentified product must not be used; it must be disposed of by taking it to a hazardous product special collection point.

References

Regulation respecting occupational health and safety, S-2.1, r. 19.01.

Regulation respecting information on controlled products, S-2.1, r. 10.1.

Act respecting occupational health and safety, R.S.Q., S-2.1.


Controlled Products Regulations, SOR/88-66.

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations.

Note. – The information contained in this guideline is not exhaustive and does not replace current standards, laws and regulations.
A system that defines six categories of “controlled” products

WHMIS classifies hazardous products in six main categories. This classification is based on hazard criteria listed in the *Hazardous Products Regulations*. A controlled product is a product that meets one or more classification criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHMIS CLASSES</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
<th>EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Compressed gases</td>
<td>Products held under pressure</td>
<td>Oxygen, Propane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Flammable and combustible materials</td>
<td>Products that will burn or catch on fire easily</td>
<td>Hydrogen, Acetone, Diesel, Magnesium, Sodium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Oxidizing materials</td>
<td>Products that can cause or promote combustion of another material, whether or not they are themselves combustible</td>
<td>Hydrogen peroxide, Nitric acid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1 Materials causing immediate and serious toxic effects</td>
<td>Products that rapidly cause harmful health effects, including death</td>
<td>Hydrogen cyanide, Phenol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2 Materials causing other toxic effects</td>
<td>Products whose health effects generally appear over time following one or more exposures</td>
<td>Benzene, Diisocyanates, Glutaraldehyde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3 Biohazardous infectious materials</td>
<td>Living organisms or their toxins that can cause disease in people or animals</td>
<td>AIDS virus, Hepatitis B virus, Rabies virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Corrosive materials</td>
<td>Products that can corrode metal surfaces or cause burns to skin</td>
<td>Caustic soda, Hydrochloric acid, Bleach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Dangerously reactive materials</td>
<td>Products that can be health or safety hazards under certain conditions (pressure, temperature, impact, violent reaction with water or air)</td>
<td>Fluorine, Perchloric acid, B-Chloroprene</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>