

Educational Bulletin

WHMIS

New Regulations

Each and every day, our customers use our products with confidence. For this reason, Sani Marc is committed to informing customers of any changes that may affect the use of our products and the safety of users.

The Government of Canada has adopted new regulations regarding the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS). The new regulations are based on the Globally Harmonized System (WHMIS 2015) which will be adopted and put into effect around the world. This newsletter contains important information that will help you to better understand the processes and tools that will be changing.

The new regulations are modifying and adding new components to the product labels and safety data sheets:

- New classification of products
- New pictograms
- Changes to product labels
- Changes to Safety Data Sheets (SDS) – formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

Sani Marc has always taken a proactive approach with respect to Canadian regulations. We have completed the assessment and classification of all our products according to the new regulatory criteria. We can now state that all of our products can be used without any major changes. Also rest assured that the transition of all documents, including labels, will be completed before the transition period ends on June 1, 2017.

New WHMIS 2015 Pictograms



Health hazard
(carcinogenic,
allergenic, etc.)



Corrosive



Skin irritant
Harmful if swallowed



Flammable



Explosive



Aquatic toxicity



Gas under pressure



Oxidizer



Toxic



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Top 7 WHMIS 2015 FAQs

Q : Why is this regulatory change necessary?

A : The Canadian system is based on the globally harmonized system. Many countries currently have their own system for classifying and labelling chemicals, and it is becoming too expensive for governments and businesses to comply with multiple systems. It is also essential that workers understand the hazards of a chemical before using it. Standardizing the system will address these issues.

Q : What are the main elements of WHMIS 2015?

- A :**
1. The classification of hazards associated with the properties of chemicals
 2. The communication of hazards and precautionary information
 3. The employee education program

Q : If a product changes class, is it considered much more hazardous?

A : No. It is only the hazard classification that has changed, not the hazard itself.

Q : Will the new Safety Data Sheet (SDS) remain in effect for a period of 3 years?

A : No. It will remain in effect for the life of the product. There will no longer be an expiry date on the SDS. Updates will be made when new regulatory requirements and/or relevant new scientific information is published.

Q : Should I inform my employees of these new regulations?

A : Yes. It is important to inform your staff as the new regulations require training. In some cases, the tools used to communicate the hazards associated with the use of Sani Marc products may need to be updated.

Q : Do the new regulations apply only to employees who use the chemicals?

A : WHMIS 2015 covers not only various work environments but other sectors as well, such as the classification of chemicals for transportation purposes.

Q : Will products have to change their formulation?

A : No. All of our products meet the new regulations without requiring any changes.

Important Dates to Remember

- **February 11, 2015** - regulations officially filed in Ottawa
- **June 1, 2017** - end of the transition period for manufacturers (SDS and labels)
- **June 1, 2018** - end of the transition period for distributors (SDS and labels)
- **December 1, 2018** - end of the transition period for employers (SDS and labels)



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