

WHMIS Symbols

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)

WHMIS is Canada's national system for identifying hazardous materials. This system uses a set of eight symbols to designate different classes of hazardous materials. It is the common type of safety labeling used in all industries and government worksites as mandated by federal regulations.

A typical label for a container looks like:

PRODUCT IDENTIFIER IDENTIFICATEUR du PRODUIT	
RISK PHRASES	MENTIONS de RISQUES
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES	PRÉCAUTIONS à PRENDRE
FIRST AID MEASURES	PREMIERS SOINS
 	
SEE MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET VOIR FICHE SIGNALÉTIQUE	
SUPPLIER IDENTIFIER IDENTIFICATEUR du FOURNISSEUR	

Gas Cylinder

This class includes compressed gases, dissolved gases, and gases liquefied by compression or refrigeration.



Exploding bomb

for explosion or reactivity hazards



Flame

for fire hazards

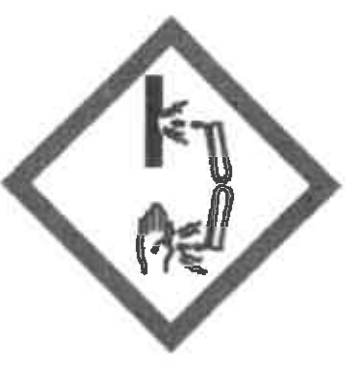
This class includes any substance or mixture (solid, liquid, aerosol or gas) that may catch fire in the presence or a spark, open flame.

They may also emit a flammable gas in contact with water. It also includes any self-reactive (i.e., absence of O_2) or self-heating



Corrosion:

This class includes caustic and acid materials that can eat through metals or cause serious irritation or damage to eyes or skin. Examples: sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid



Exclamation Mark

may cause less serious health effects such as:

- irritation (skin or eyes)
- skin sensitivity
- single exposure specific target organ toxicity -
- drowsiness/dizziness or respiratory irritation



or damage the ozone layer

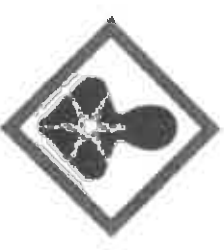
Environment

may cause both short and long-term damage
to the aquatic environment



Health Hazard

These materials can cause or are suspected of causing serious health problems. They may be life-threatening and have serious long-term health consequences.



Oxidizing Agents

These materials increase the risk of fire if they come in contact with flammable or combustible materials.



Skull & Crossbones

can cause death or toxicity with short exposure to small amounts



Biohazardous infectious materials

- for organisms or toxins that can cause diseases in people or animals
- These materials contain harmful micro-organisms that have been classified into Risk Groups 2, 3, and 4 as determined by the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Medical Research Council of Canada.

