

WHMIS LABELS

What is a WHMIS Label?

A WHMIS label is a source of information on a controlled product designed to alert employers and employees, in an easily understood way, to the hazards of the product and the precautions to be taken when working with or near the product. The WHMIS label is the first hazard warning employees will see.

A label may be a mark, sign, stamp, device, seal, sticker, tag, etc., and must be attached to, or imprinted, stencilled or embossed on the controlled product or a container of the product. The label must be hardy enough to remain attached to their container. Both English and French must be used.

The label is one element of the WHMIS system and directs people to the second element of the system, the MSDS, where detailed technical information is provided. The third element is the education and training of employees in the hazard information on controlled products, including instruction in the content of the product label, its meaning and its significance.

WHMIS Label Systems

There are three WHMIS labelling systems:

1. Supplier label
2. Workplace label
3. Identifier

1. Supplier Label

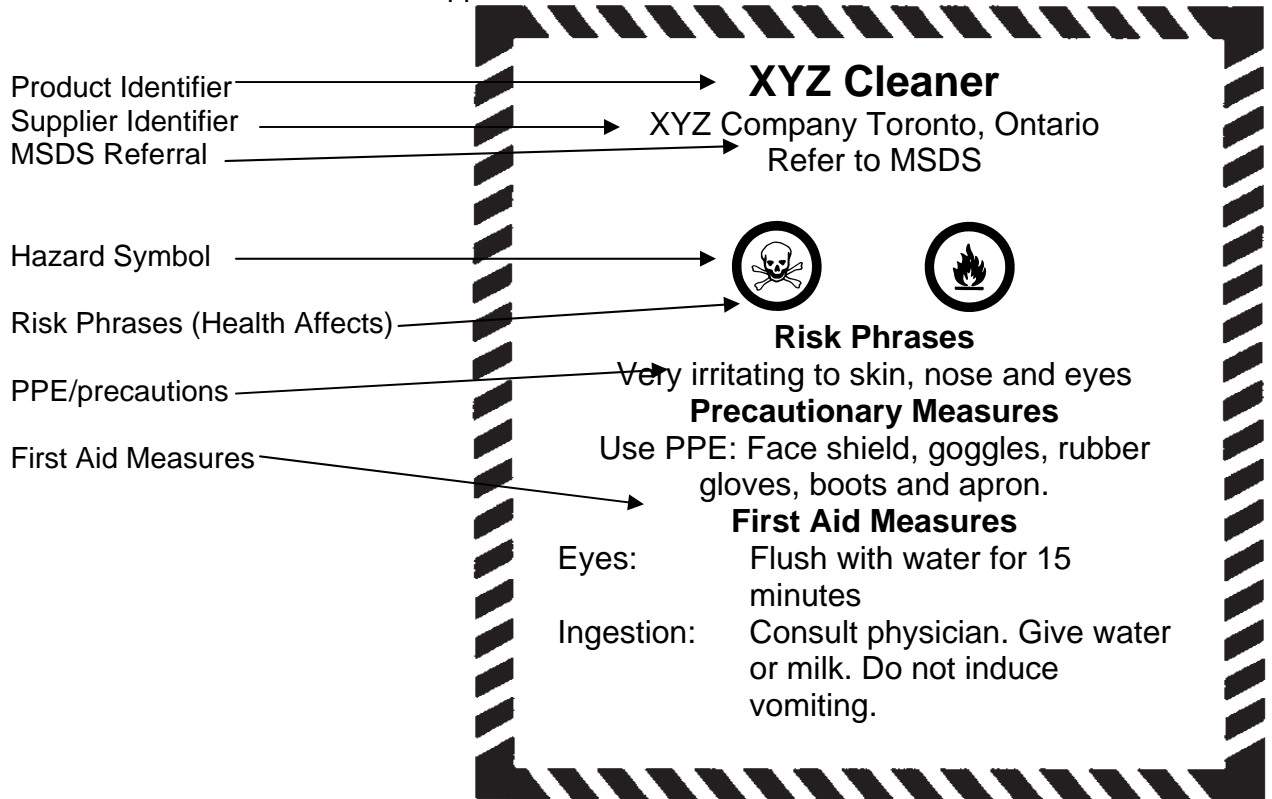
This label is provided by the supplier and is a condition of sale. The supplier is the manufacturer, processor or packager of the controlled product or may be the person who imports or sells the product. An importer of controlled products has the same duties as a supplier, regarding labels and MSDS.

The distinctive broken-line WHMIS border must be used except with Lab Supplies and Lab Samples. This label must meet requirements regarding hazard symbols, information categories, label design, format and language (it must be in both English and French). Flexibility is provided in the choice of wording within the categories and in the label format. The label must stand out from the colour of the container and must not conflict with TDG (Transportation of Dangerous Goods) label colors. There are no other specific requirements for the size, shape and colour of the WHMIS labels.

The supplier is responsible to ensure the label is applied to the product, unless under permitted circumstances the purchaser assumes that responsibility*.

*The Occupational Health and Safety Division must be notified in writing before controlled products can be imported into Saskatchewan without WHMIS labels.

Format of Supplier Label – Greater than 100mls



Supplier Label Definitions

Product Identifier	The name of the product. This could be the brand name, chemical name or generic name.
Supplier Identifier	This is the name of the supplier from whom the product was obtained.
MSDS Statement	This is a general statement referring the worker to the MSDS. This informs the user that additional information is available.
Hazard Symbol	This is one or more of eight WHMIS hazard symbols that apply to the product.
Risk Phrases	These are brief descriptions of the possible harmful health effects or other hazards.
Precautionary Measures	This identifies the personal protective equipment required and safety measures to be used when handling this product.
First Aid Measures	This lists the emergency and first aid treatment for people affected by the product.

Types of Supplier Labels

There are four types of supplier labels:

1. **Containers greater than 100 mls – the label must contain**
 1. Product Identifier
 2. Supplier Identifier
 3. MSDS Statement
 4. Hazard Symbol
 5. Risk Phrases
 6. Precautionary Measures
 7. First Aid Measures

2. **Containers less than 100 mls**
 1. Product Identifier
 2. Supplier Identifier
 3. MSDS Statement
 4. Hazard Symbol(s)

3. **Laboratory Supplies – these are reagents used in laboratories, in containers less than 10 kg. They do not require the broken-line WHMIS border.**
 1. Product Identifier
 2. Risk Phrases
 3. Precautionary Measures
 4. First Aid Measures
 5. MSDS Statement

4. **Laboratory Samples – these samples may contain unknown materials.**
 1. Product Identifier
 2. The chemical identity of each known hazardous material
 3. The statement “Hazardous Lab Sample – for hazard information or in an emergency call [phone number]”

2. Workplace Label

As long as the controlled product remains in its original container with a supplier label on it, no additional labelling is required.

A workplace label is required when:

- The product or material is transferred to another container in the workplace
- When supplier labels are missing or damaged
- Materials produced for use in the workplace (such as dilutions) or for export

The content of a workplace label is less detailed than the supplier label. The workplace label has no required format. The workplace label must contain the following information:

- Product Identifier
- Safe handling instructions
- MSDS referral statement

ABC Cleanser

- Keep away from sources of ignition
- Rubber gloves must be worn when using this product
- See Material Safety Data Sheet

3. Identifiers

Identifiers are the third type of labels required under WHMIS. Identifiers can be tags, placards, color coding and other systems used to identify materials in pipes, in tanker trucks, etc. There are no regulations specifying the color, size, or shape of these labels. They must be distinctive, easy to see and understand. Employees must understand exactly what these workplace product identifiers mean and how to work safely with and in proximity to them.

Identifiers can also be used for materials which are transferred by a worker into a container for use during the same shift IF that worker maintains control of the new container and finishes it up in that shift.

WHMIS EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions from WHMIS labelling requirements include:

- Fugitive emissions (small amounts of controlled product that is known to escape from process equipment or from emission control equipment)
- Bulk shipments
- Materials destined for export (a WHMIS supplier label is not required on these materials, but a workplace label is)