



# WHMIS - Classes & **Symbols**





WHMIS covers six broad types, or classes, of hazardous materials which are lettered A through F. Divisions are provided in some classes to separate different groups of hazardous materials within a class. Symbols are used for these different types of hazardous materials as follows:



Class A: Compressed Gas

This class includes compressed gases, dissolved gases and gases liquefied by compression or refrigeration. Examples: gas cylinders for oxyacetylene welding or water disinfection.



**Division 2: Materials Causing Other Toxic Effects** This division covers materials which cause immediate skin or eve irritation as well as those which can cause long-term effects in a person repeatedly exposed to small amounts. Examples: acetone (irritant), asbestos (cancer causing), toluene diisocyanate (a sensitizing agent).



### Class B: Flammable and **Combustible Material**

This class includes compressed gases, dissolved gases and gases liquefied by compression or refrigeration. Examples: white phosphorus, acetone and butane. Flammable liquids such as acetone are more easily ignited than combustible liquids such as kerosene.



#### Class C: Oxidizing Material Materials which provide oxygen or similar substance and which increase the risk of fire if they come in contact with

flammable or combustible materials. Examples: sodium hypochlorite, perchloric acid. inorganic peroxides.



#### Class D: POISONOUS AND INFECTIOUS MATERIALS CLASS D, DIVISION 1: Materials Causing Immediate and Serious Toxic Effects. This division covers materials which can cause the death of a person exposed to small amounts. Examples: sodium cyanide, hydrogen sulphide.

# **EXEMPTIONS**

Some products, such as pesticides, certain consumer products and explosives do not require the distinctive WHMIS hazard symbols and labels because they are already covered by other labelling legislation. WHMIS will require that employers provide instruction to workers for these products based on available information and the various kinds of workplace labelling be used when contents are transferred to new containers.





#### **Division 3: Biohazardous Infectious** Material This division applies to materials which contain harmful micro-organisms. Examples: cultures or diagnostic specimens containing salmonella bacteria or the hepatitis B virus.



Class E: Corrosive Material

Caustic or acid materials which can destroy the skin or eat through metals. Example: muriatic acid, lye.



### **Class F: Dangerously Reactive** Material

Products which can undergo dangerous reaction if subjected to heat, pressure, shock or allowed to contact water. Examples: plastic monomers such as butadiene and some cyanides.



### WHMIS Hazard Symbol Quiz





Connect the correct WHMIS hazard symbol with the description of the class and division



WHMIS Classification Case Study







