

Toolbox Meeting Guide

WHMIS 2015: The physical hazard classes

Hazardous products are divided into two hazard groups: physical hazards and health hazards. The two hazard groups are further divided into hazard classes. The physical hazard classes are described briefly below.

Physical hazard class	General description
Flammable gases Flammable aerosols Flammable liquids Flammable solids	These four classes cover products that have the ability to ignite (catch fire) easily. The main hazards are fire or explosion.
Oxidizing gases Oxidizing liquids Oxidizing solids	These three classes cover oxidizers, which may cause or intensify a fire or cause a fire or explosion.
Gases under pressure	<p>This class includes compressed gases, liquefied gases, dissolved gases, and refrigerated liquefied gases.</p> <p>Compressed gases, liquefied gases, and dissolved gases are hazardous because of the high pressure inside the cylinder or container. The cylinder or container may explode if heated.</p> <p>Refrigerated liquefied gases are very cold. They can cause severe cold (cryogenic) burns or injury.</p>
Self-reactive substances and mixtures	These products may react on their own to cause a fire or explosion, or may cause a fire or explosion if heated.
Pyrophoric liquids Pyrophoric solids Pyrophoric gases	These products can catch fire very quickly (spontaneously) if exposed to air.
Self-heating substances and mixtures	These products may catch fire if exposed to air. These products differ from pyrophoric liquids or solids in that they will ignite only after a longer period of time or when in large amounts.
Substances and mixtures which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases	As the class name suggests, these products react with water to release flammable gases. In some cases, the flammable gases may ignite very quickly (spontaneously).

Physical hazard class	General description
Organic peroxides	These products are unstable, highly reactive, or explosive. They may cause a fire or explosion if heated.
Corrosive to metals	These products may be corrosive (chemically damaging or destructive) to metals.
Combustible dusts	This class is used to warn of products that are finely divided solid particles. If dispersed in air, the particles may catch fire or explode if ignited.
Simple asphyxiants	These products are gases that may displace (take the place of) oxygen in air and cause rapid suffocation.
Physical hazards not otherwise classified	This class is meant to cover any physical hazards that are not covered in any other physical hazard class. These hazards involve chemical reactions that result in serious injuries or deaths when the reactions occur. If a product is classified in this class, the hazard statement on the label and safety data sheet will describe the nature of the hazard.

Record of meeting

Project				
Address		City	Province	Postal code
Employer		Supervisor		
Date (yyyy-mm-dd)	Time		Shift	
Number in crew		Number attending		

Other safety issues or suggestions made by crew members

Record of those attending

Name (please print)	Signature	Company
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		

Manager's remarks	
Manager's signature	Supervisor's signature