

WHMIS 2015: The hazard categories

Hazardous products are divided into two hazard groups: physical hazards and health hazards. The two hazard groups are further divided into hazard classes. Each hazard class contains at least one category.

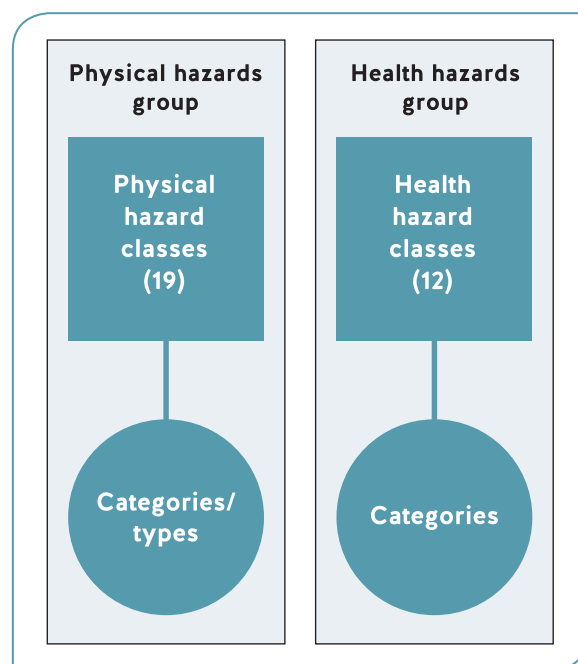
The hazard categories are assigned a number (1, 2, etc.). Categories may also be called “types.” Types are assigned an alphabetical letter (A, B, etc.). In a few cases, subcategories are also specified. Subcategories are identified with a number and a letter (for example, 1A and 1B).

Some hazard classes have only one category (for example, “Corrosive to metals”). Others may have two categories (for example, “Carcinogenicity” [cancer]) or three categories (for example, “Oxidizing liquids”). There are a few hazard classes with five or more categories (for example, “Organic peroxides”).

The category tells you how hazardous the product is (that is, the severity of hazard).

- Category 1 is always the greatest level of hazard. (In other words, it is the most hazardous within that class.) If Category 1 is further divided, Category 1A within the same hazard class is a greater hazard than Category 1B.
- Category 2 within the same hazard class is more hazardous than Category 3, and so on.

There are a few exceptions to this rule. For example, for the “Gases under pressure” hazard class, the hazard categories are “Compressed gas,” “Liquefied gas,” “Refrigerated liquefied gas,” and “Dissolved gas.” These classes relate to the physical state of the gas when packaged. They do not describe the degree of hazard.



In WHMIS 2015, hazardous products are divided into two hazard groups. Each hazard group is divided into hazard classes. Each hazard class contains categories or types.

Hazard category	Level of hazard
1	More hazardous
2A	↕
2B	
3	Less hazardous

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