

Toolbox Meeting Guide

WHMIS 2015: The health 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 health hazard classes are described briefly below.

Health hazard class	General description
Acute toxicity	<p>These products are fatal, toxic (poisonous), or harmful if they are inhaled (breathed in), if they come into contact with skin, or if they are ingested (swallowed).</p> <p>“Acute toxicity” refers to effects that occur following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin contact or ingestion exposure to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A single dose, or – Multiple doses given within 24 hours • An inhalation exposure of 4 hours <p>Acute toxicity could result from exposure to the product itself. It could also result from a product that, upon contact with water, releases a gas that can cause acute toxicity.</p>
Skin corrosion/irritation	This class covers products that cause severe skin burns (corrosion) and products that cause skin irritation.
Serious eye damage/eye irritation	This class covers products that cause serious eye damage (corrosion) and products that cause eye irritation.
Respiratory or skin sensitization	A respiratory sensitizer is a product that may cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled. A skin sensitizer is a product that may cause an allergic skin reaction.
Germ cell mutagenicity	This hazard class includes products that may cause or are suspected of causing genetic defects. Genetic defects are permanent changes (mutations) to body cells that can be passed on to future generations.
Carcinogenicity	This hazard class includes products that cause or are suspected of causing cancer.

Health hazard class	General description
Reproductive toxicity	This hazard class includes products that may damage or are suspected of damaging fertility (the ability to conceive children) or the embryo, fetus, or offspring. Note: There is also a category that includes products that may cause harm to breast-fed children.
Specific target organ toxicity – single exposure	This hazard class covers products that cause or may cause damage to organs (for example, the liver, kidneys, or blood) after a single exposure. This class also includes a category for products that cause respiratory irritation, drowsiness, or dizziness.
Specific target organ toxicity – repeated exposure	This hazard class covers products that cause or may cause damage to organs (for example, the liver, kidneys, or blood) following prolonged or repeated exposure.
Aspiration hazard	This hazard class is for products that may be fatal if they are swallowed and enter the airways.
Biohazardous infectious materials	These materials are micro-organisms (e.g., viruses, bacteria, or fungi), nucleic acids (e.g., DNA or RNA), or proteins that cause or are probable causes of infection, with or without toxicity, in humans or animals.
Health hazards not otherwise classified	This class covers products that are not included in any other health hazard class. These hazards occur following acute or repeated exposure. They have adverse effects on the health of a person exposed to them — including injury or death. If a product is classified in this class, the hazard statement 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