

Consumer Products and WHMIS 2015

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020, Part 22 states that a consumer product, as defined in section 2 of the *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act*, are exempted from WHMIS.

The *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act*, section 2, defines a consumer product as: a product, including its components, parts or accessories, that may be reasonably be expected to be obtained by an individual to be used for non-commercial purposes, including for domestic, recreational and sports purposes, and includes its packaging.

When consumer products are used, as defined in the *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act*, then the following process is acceptable to meet the minimum requirements of the Regulations:

- Provide and document WHMIS education to all staff
- SDSs are not required for consumer products; however, if SDSs are obtained for the consumer products, ensure all staff are aware where SDSs are located, how to read/understand the SDS
- Ensure all staff are aware of who they contact in event of a leak or spill and for more assistance if needed
- Ensure documentation on providing staff education is retained

When hazardous products are used, then Regulations will apply.

- Provide WHMIS education and site-specific training on the product/s (PPE, spill procedures, etc.) as per the SDS
- Ensure up-to-date SDSs are readily available
- Ensure education and training are documented
- Meet other requirements under the Regulations as well.

Additional Legislative Requirements

Under *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020*, 3-11, a safety program is required and must include (among other requirements):

- the identification of existing and potential risks to the health or safety of workers at the place of employment and the measures, including procedures to respond to an emergency, that will be taken to reduce, eliminate or control those risks;

This applies to a consumer product as well where it poses a risk to the health or safety of workers. Reading the SDS available for consumer products will help to guide the decision to provide training on that product to meet the requirements of the Regulations.

Safety Talk Discussion

Be Accountable: Choose safety - work safe - and go home injury free!