SAFETY MEETING: WHMIS 2015 Safety Data Sheets

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"A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is a summary document that provides information about the hazards of a product and advice about safety precautions. An SDS is usually written by the manufacturer or supplier of the product. In some circumstances, an employer may be required to prepare an SDS (e.g., when the product is produced and used exclusively in that workplace).

An SDS provides more detailed hazard information about the product than the label. They are an important resource for workplaces and workers to help you learn more about the product(s) used. Use this information to identify the hazards of the products you use and to protect yourself from those hazards, including safe handling and emergency measures.

AgSafe offers online and in-person WHMIS2015 courses to Agriculture employers in B.C. For more information check out AgSafeBC.ca.

An SDS tells users what the hazards of the product are, how to use the product safely, what to expect if the recommendations are not followed, how to recognize symptoms of exposure, and what to do if emergencies occur."

(CCOHS, 2021)

Employers must provide the most current SDS to worksite. There are some exceptions to this rule. For example, if an up-to-date SDS is not available, the employer can request written confirmation from the supplier stating the SDS hasn't changed.

The 16 Sections of a Safety Data Sheet	
1. Product Identification	
2. Hazard Identification	
3. Composition/Information on ingredients	
4. First-aid	
5. Fire-fighting measures	
6. Accidental release measures	
7. Handling and storage	
8. Exposure controls/ Personal protection	
9. Physical and chemical properties	
10. Stability and reactivity	
11. Toxicology information	
12. Ecological information*	
13. Disposal considerations*	
14. Transport information*	
15. Regulatory information*	
16. Other information	

^{*}In sections 12 to 15, the headings need to be listed, but suppliers don't have to provide information.





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How do I protect myself?

- Be familiar with the information provided in your SDS (section 1). Consult with your supplier or AgSafe for additional information.
- Understand what the hazards of using the products are (section 2).
- Understand safe handling and storage instructions (in section 7).
- What to do in the event of an emergency or accidental release (sections 4, 5 and 6).
- Educate and train workers on WHMIS and the hazards and safe use of products.
- Ensure that hazardous products are properly labelled (workplace and supplier labels).
- Prepare workplace labels as needed or request workplace labels from your supplier.
- Ensure appropriate control measures are in place to protect the health and safety of the workers.

Ensure workers can answer these following questions for every hazardous product they work with:

- What are the hazards of the product?
- How do I protect myself from those hazards?
- What do I do in case of an emergency?
- Where can I get further information?

Where do I get more information?

Contact one of our AgSafe consults or advisers for additional information and advice.

Check out our AgSafeBC website at https://agsafebc.ca/
Specifically, the Cannabis Tile at https://agsafebc.ca/industry-resources/cannabis/

WHMIS 2015: Safety Data Sheets at WorkSafeBC - Toolbox Meeting Guides - Safety Data Sheets

Workplace labels at WorkSafeBC - Toolbox Meeting Guides - Workplace Label

WHMIS 2015: Safety Data Sheets at CCOHS







