



# Understanding WHMIS 2015 & GHS

GHS stands for Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. This system was implemented to improve employee safety by standardizing: chemical labels, Safety Data Sheets and pictograms across the globe.

## WHY GHS?



**SAFETY FIRST**



## MORE IN-DEPTH CLASSIFICATION OF PRODUCTS THAN BEFORE

- MORE CONSISTENT AND SIMPLIFIED CHEMICAL HAZARD INFORMATION
- LESS TRAINING REQUIRED
- GREATER AWARENESS OF HAZARDS
- PROTECTS WORKERS
- CREATES SAFER WORK ENVIRONMENT
- SIMPLIFIES INTERNATIONAL TRADE
- BETTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO CHEMICAL INCIDENTS

## GHS vs. WHMIS

GHS IS NOT REPLACING WHMIS

It modifies the Canadian WHMIS program by updating the pictograms, labels, safety data sheets (MSDS > SDS) and changing classification requirements to standardize chemical classification across the globe.



SAME chemistry  
SAME performance  
NEW classification



NOT ALL hazard classes or categories REQUIRE A PICTOGRAM – therefore you must exercise due diligence when handling products.

NO PICTOGRAM, A PRODUCT MAY BE CLASSIFIED under WHMIS. Look for signal word such as "Warning!" and "Danger" as well as hazard statements on labels/SDS. Please review all chemical labels for safe product use and handling.

**NO PICTOGRAM = LOWER HAZARD**



Better & Consistent  
COMMUNICATION  
OF CHEMICAL INFORMATION

Every country now speaks the same language when classifying chemicals.

## WHY IS THIS SYMBOL PRESENT ON SO MANY LABELS?

The fragrance used in scented products has a **sensitizer** and will automatically be classified as a skin sensitizer which requires the Exclamation Mark pictogram.