



# WHMIS SYMBOLS

## Compressed Gas



### Risks

MATERIALS WHICH ARE NORMALLY GASEOUS KEPT IN A PRESSURIZED CONTAINER

- Could explode due to pressure
- Could explode if heated or dropped
- Possible hazard from both the force of explosion and the release of contents

### Precautions

ENSURE CONTAINER IS ALWAYS SECURED

- Store in appropriate designated areas
- Do not drop or allow to fall

## Flammable and Combustible



MATERIALS WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BURN AFTER BEING EXPOSED TO A FLAME OR OTHER IGNITION SOURCE

- May ignite spontaneously
- May be a material which will release flammable products if allowed to degrade or when exposed to water

STORE IN PROPERLY DESIGNATED AREAS  
WORK IN WELL VENTILATED AREAS

- Avoid heating
- Avoid sources of sparks / flames
- Ensure electrical sources are safe

## Oxidizing Material



MATERIALS WHICH CAN CAUSE OTHER MATERIALS TO BURN OR SUPPORT COMBUSTION

- Can cause skin or eye burns
- Increase fire and explosion hazard
- May cause combustibles to explode or react violently

STORE IN AREAS AWAY FROM COMBUSTIBLES  
WEAR BODY, HAND, FACE AND EYE PROTECTION

- Store in proper containers which will not rust or oxidize

## Toxic Immediate and Severe



POISONS / POTENTIALLY FATAL MATERIALS WHICH CAUSE IMMEDIATE AND SEVERE HARM

- May be fatal if ingested or inhaled
- May be absorbed through the skin
- Small volumes have a toxic effect

AVOID BREATHING DUST OR VAPOURS AND  
AVOID CONTACT WITH SKIN OR EYES

- Wear protective clothing which is effective against fumes and vapours
- Wear face and eye protection
- Work in well ventilated areas and wear breathing protection

## Toxic Long Term Concealed



MATERIALS WHICH HAVE HARMFUL EFFECTS AFTER REPEATED EXPOSURES OR OVER LONG PERIODS OF TIME

- May cause death or permanent injury
- May cause birth defects or sterility
- May cause cancer
- May be sensitizer causing allergies

WEAR APPROPRIATE PERSONAL PROTECTION  
WORK IN A WELL VENTILATED AREA

- Store in appropriate designated areas
- Avoid direct contact
- Use hand, body, face and eye protection
- Ensure respiratory and body protection is appropriate for the specific hazard

## Biohazardous Infectious



INFECTIOUS AGENTS OR A BIOLOGICAL TOXIN CAUSING A SERIOUS DISEASE OR DEATH

- May cause anaphylactic shock
- Includes Viruses, Yeasts, Moulds, Bacteria and Parasites which affect humans
- Includes fluids containing toxic products
- Includes cellular components

SPECIAL TRAINING REQUIRED WORK IN DESIGNATED BIOLOGICAL AREAS  
WITH APPROPRIATE ENGINEERING CONTROLS

- Avoid forming aerosols
- Avoid breathing vapours
- Avoid contamination of people / area
- Store only in special designated areas

## Corrosive Materials



MATERIALS WHICH REACT WITH METALS AND LIVING TISSUE

- Eye and skin irritation on exposure
- Severe burns/tissue damage on longer exposure
- Lung damage if inhaled
- May cause blindness if eyes contacted
- Environmental damage from fumes

WEAR BODY, FACE AND EYE PROTECTION  
USE BREATHING APPARATUS

- Ensure protective equipment is appropriate
- Work in well ventilated area
- Avoid all direct body contact
- Use appropriate storage containers and ensure proper non-venting closures

## Dangerously Reactive



MATERIALS WHICH MAY HAVE UNEXPECTED REACTIONS

- May react with water
- May be chemically unstable
- May explode if exposed to shock or heat
- May release toxic or flammable vapours
- May vigorously polymerize
- May burn unexpectedly

HANDLE WITH CARE AVOIDING VIBRATION,  
SHOCKS AND SUDDEN TEMPERATURE CHANGES

- Store in appropriate containers
- Ensure storage containers are sealed
- Store and work in designated areas

People working safely in the safest  
and healthiest workplaces in the world.

For More Information: