WHMIS 2015  UPDATE

To  all Science Personnel:

WHMIS 2015, came into force a couple of years ago with a staged implementation schedule.

As users, we were responsible to ensure we had training for both the 1988 and 2015 hazardous labels found on products and the (Material) Safety Data Sheets (SDS).  That training was implemented two years ago and is available as online training on Blackboard for all members of the Trent community.

We are now approaching the final deadline for the last stage of implementation.  As of December 1, 2018, Safety Data Sheets in labs will need to meet the WHMIS 2015 Format.  Chemwatch, the university’s online SDS library will enable labs to relatively easily generate and print SDS ‘s for their labs.

Safety Data Sheets

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are now referred to as Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and now need to meet new standards for formatting and information provided. SDS binders should be updated with SDS that meet the new format including SDS for chemicals purchased prior to 2017. SDS can be downloaded or obtained from the Vendor or you can use CHEMWATCH, the university’s new online SDS program which will allow you to download SDS for chemicals from most Canadian vendors. We are still highly recommending that labs maintain the SDS binders in their labs as in the event of an emergency the online library may not be available. SDS no longer require updating every three years as in the past, but do need to be updated when new information on the hazard or material is provided. We suggest that lab personnel check SDS occasionally to determine if the SDS in their binder is up to date.

Access to CHEMWATCH: [www.trentu.ca/scienceservices](http://www.trentu.ca/scienceservices) Click on the CHEMWATCH icon to access the program. Click on <instructions> to download the MS Word file with basic instructions for using CHEMWATCH and creating Workplace labels.

Workplace labels

Workplace labels, which are an abbreviated form of the hazard labels found on the original container of a hazardous material, will need to be used on any decanted or diluted chemical that is stored in a lab.

Examples:

1. Ethanol decanted to a wash bottle: Workplace label on wash bottle required.
2. 10 % Nitric acid made up from concentrated nitric acid: Workplace label required as even in the diluted form the material is still hazardous.
3. Mixtures or solutions of chemicals that would have a full SDS if purchased from a supplier.

Workplace labels are required for any product that is :

Not used immediately

More than one person will have control or use of it.

The product is not “used up” during the shift in which it was decanted (end of day).

Workplace labels do not require a border or specific wording; they do require the following information:

1. Product identifier (product name matching that on the SDS),
2. Information for the safe handling of the product, and
3. A statement that the SDS is available
4. (Note: Pictographs are not required, but they do convey a lot of information and we have added them to the template labels created in Chemwatch).

Two templates for Workplace labels have been created and are available within Chemwatch for anyone to use.  Instructions on how to create the labels using the templates were included with the live launch of CHEMWATCH.   Label templates for large ( > 100 mL) and small containers (< 100 mL) have been created as the requirements for each are different. An example of a workplace label is below.

Example of a Workplace Label for large containers (>100 mL)



Example of a Workplace Label for a small container (<100 mL)



Chemical Mixtures:

Chemical mixtures, made in the lab, to be used over a period of time greater than one day, need to be labelled with the hazardous ingredients, the safe handling instructions and a note referring to the SDS. It should also include the appropriate “warning phrase”. Many times the product which is mixed in the labs is also available from vendors in a premixed form. As such, an SDS is already available for the mixture. The SDS can be downloaded for that product and the label created using that information. In the event that a mixture does not exist from a commercial vendor, then the hazardous ingredients should be listed on the label with the appropriate cautionary statement and safe handling instructions. In the event the mixture has a name (i.e., Aqua Regia or Bouin’s) the name can be used in place of the actual ingredients provided the “warning phrase” and safe handling instructions are included.

Examples:

1. Name: Aqua Regia
	1. Ingredients: Nitric and Hydrochloric Acid
	2. Warning phrase: Corrosive
	3. Safe Handling: Wear gloves, eye protection, work in a fumehood.

The Label would look like this:

Aqua Regia (or you could substitute the ingredients Nitric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid.

Corrosive

Wear gloves, eye protection, work in a fumehood

See SDS

1. Name: Bouin’s Solution
	1. Ingredients: Acetic Acid, Picric Acid, Formaldhyde, Water
	2. Warning phrase: Corrosive
	3. Safe handling: Wear gloves, eye protection, work a well ventilated space

The label would look like this:

Bouin’s Solution

Corrosive

Wear Gloves, eye protection and work in a well ventilated space

See SDS.

More complex mixtures or reagents may require further consideration. The intent of the regulation is to ensure that a person(s) who handle a chemical or mixture of chemicals can, from the label, identify the material, the immediate or high priority hazard, know how to handle the material safely and are referred to additional information.

Laboratory Products developed in the lab. (New products)

Products developed in the lab which will be used, handled or stored in the lab and which meet the criteria for any of the WHMIS 2015 hazard classes require that the lab identify and classify the hazards, label it appropriately as per the regulations and provide an SDS suitable to the hazards. The WHMIS regulation goes into further detail of the requirements.

Laboratory Samples

A laboratory sample does not require a workplace label.

A laboratory sample is defined as “a sample of a hazardous product that is packaged in a container that contains less than 10 Kg of the hazardous product and that is intended solely to be tested in a laboratory but does not include a sample that is to be used:

1. By the laboratory for testing other products, mixtures, materials or substances; or
2. For educational or demonstration purposes”

Training:

Finally, it should be noted that all lab personnel ( P.I., supervisors, staff, students and research personnel) need to ensure that they have completed the WHMIS 2015 training.  While student and staff completion rates are relatively high, Faculty and Supervisor training rates are relatively low.

WHMIS 2015 training is available on Blackboard. Search for Mandatory Employee Training Courses.