

MSDS provides immediate information

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

SECTION 1 — PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION AND USE					SECTION 6 — TOXICOLOGICAL PROPERTIES												
PRODUCT IDENTIFIER		PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (P.N.)			ROUTE OF ENTRY SKIN CONTACT <input type="checkbox"/> SKIN ABSORPTION <input type="checkbox"/> EYE CONTACT <input type="checkbox"/> INHALATION <input type="checkbox"/> INGESTION <input type="checkbox"/>												
PRODUCT USE		EFFECTS OF ACUTE EXPOSURE TO PRODUCT			EFFECTS OF CHRONIC EXPOSURE TO PRODUCT												
MANUFACTURER'S NAME		SUPPLIER'S NAME			EXPOSURE LIMITS		IRITANCY TO PRODUCT		SENSITIZATION TO PRODUCT		CARCINOGENICITY						
STREET ADDRESS		STREET ADDRESS			TERATOGENICITY		REPRODUCTIVE TOXICITY		MUTAGENICITY		SYNERGIC PRODUCTS						
CITY		PROVINCE		CITY		PROVINCE		SECTION 7 — PREVENTIVE MEASURES									
POSTAL CODE		EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NO.		POSTAL CODE		EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NO.		PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT									
SECTION 2 — HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS					GLOVES (SPECIFY)				RESPIRATOR (SPECIFY)				EYE (SPECIFY)				
HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS					CAS NUMBER				LD ₅₀ OF INGREDIENT (SPECIFY SPECIES AND ROUTE)				LD ₅₀ OF INGREDIENT (SPECIFY SPECIES)				
SECTION 3 — PHYSICAL DATA					LEAK AND SPILL PROCEDURE				WASTE DISPOSAL				HANDLING PROCEDURES AND EQUIPMENT				
PHYSICAL STATE		ODOUR AND APPEARANCE			ODOUR THRESHOLD (ppm)				STORAGE REQUIREMENTS				SPECIAL SHIPPING INFORMATION				
VAPOUR PRESSURE (mm Hg)		VAPOUR DENSITY (AIR=1)		EVAPORATION RATE		BOILING POINT (°C)		FREEZING POINT (°C)		SECTION 8 — FIRST AID MEASURES							
SPECIFIC GRAVITY		CORRECT WATER SOLUBILITY		SECTION 4 — FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA				SPECIFIC MEASURES									
FLAMMABILITY YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> IF YES UNDER WHICH CONDITIONS?					MEANS OF EXTINCTION				SECTION 9 — PREPARATION DATE OF MSDS								
FLASHPOINT (°C) AND METHOD		UPPER FLAMMABLE LIMIT (BY VOLUME)		LOWER FLAMMABLE LIMIT (BY VOLUME)		PREPARED BY (GROUP/DEPARTMENT, ETC.)				PHONE NUMBER				DATE			
AUTOIGNITION TEMPERATURE (°C)		HAZARDOUS COMBUSTION PRODUCTS				EXPLOSION DATA				SENSITIVITY TO IMPACT				SENSITIVITY TO STATIC DISCHARGE			
SECTION 5 — REACTIVITY DATA					CHEMICAL STABILITY YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> IF NO, UNDER WHICH CONDITIONS?				INCOMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER SUBSTANCES YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> IF SO, WHICH ONE(S)?				REACTIVITY AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS				
HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS					HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS				HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS				HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS				

This example of the format for a material safety data sheet was produced by the Ontario Ministry of Labor.

How farmers are affected

By PETER HAGGERT
Toronto Bureau
Thomson News Service

The farm sector in six Canadian provinces must fully comply with Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System regulations.

In British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Prince Edward Island though, provincial WHMIS regulations are covered under Health and safety acts that do not set policy for the farming community.

In Alberta and P.E.I., it's simple. "Farming is exempt from WHMIS. There are no exceptions," said Alberta labor ministry spokesman Chris Rivera, explaining that while most industries fall under the province's occupational health and safety legislation (which includes WHMIS regulations), farming is covered by Workers' Compensation Board rules. The same holds true for P.E.I.

"That may change. We're very anxious to be under the (Occupational Health and Safety) Act," said P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture director Leo McIsaac.

In Ontario and B.C., it's not so simple. Some farmers are exempt by WHMIS.

WHMIS regulations in Ontario and B.C. fall under the provincial occupational health and safety acts. Farming is not covered by those acts.

"A farming operation is defined (in Ontario) as growing of crops and livestock...when you get into processing (on a farm), then it's considered a factory operation," said Don Hall, Ontario's WHMIS co-ordinator.

And a factory operation is covered by Ontario's occupational health and safety legislation.

Hall said this has caused some interpretation problems with at least one sector of the industry — mushroom growers.

A typical mushroom operation grows and picks mushrooms, then moves the goods to another building for washing, cutting and packaging.

While the growing and picking is a farming operation, the processing is considered a factory operation, said Hall.

"Where the product goes into a cleaning, sorting and packaging operation, those portions of the operation are covered by WHMIS," concurs Bill Rose, of Ontario's Farm Safety Association.

The association recognizes the fine line between exemption and inclusion, and has provided seminars throughout the province to explain just how farms fall in line with the legislation.

"We also continue to offer training in WHMIS to supervisory staff of very large firms, on the site of the company," said Rose.

Rose said the association's seminars have been well attended.

"One thing encouraging to see is a great deal of interest by our members to attend seminars," said FSA general manager Jane Reed.

"We have encouraged the farm industry to comply with the legislation even though we realize most operations are exempt," said Reed.

The legislation means that, in Ontario, two farms can be growing barley, yet one is exempt from WHMIS guidelines.

For instance: Farmer White operates a barley farm. He sends his produce to a processor. When an employee on White's farm uses a welding rod, the employer is not bound to provide hazardous-use training as outlined in WHMIS guidelines.

However, at Farmer Brown's, there is packaging — and on any kind of "production line" operation, the use of a welding rod would require specific training, under WHMIS guidelines.

"We have a couple of similar categories here," said B.C. Workers' Compensation Board spokesman Ken Gray.

B.C. farming operations are covered by Workers' Compensation Board rules and not occupational health and safety legislation, with a few exceptions.

Mushroom farmers in B.C. face the same scenario as mushroom growers in Ontario.

"Some of our horticultural operations are covered by occupational health and safety legislation as well," said Gray, an occupational hygienist.

Greenhouses devoted strictly to non-food production, such as cut flowers, are bound by occupational health and safety (therefore WHMIS) legislation.

WHMIS still has an impact on Ontario, P.E.I., B.C. and Alberta farms, according to Morley Brownstein, head of the WHMIS division of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada.

WHMIS will still be visible in any hazardous goods shipped to the farm. Packaging and labelling of goods is the responsibility of the supplier and falls under federal regulations.

In time, this will lead to a general awareness of WHMIS on P.E.I., Ontario, B.C. and Alberta farms even though provincial regulations — including the necessity for employee training — might not be mandatory for all farm workers.

In the other six provinces, farms are considered workplaces where WHMIS regulations apply.

Implementation of WHMIS could help save lives

By DOUGLAS ARMOUR
Toronto Bureau
Thomson News Service

TORONTO — An industrial accident in Ontario three years ago that left four workers injured and one worker dead might have been prevented had Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System regulations been in force, says an official with the Ontario Ministry of Labor.

"This should not have happened under WHMIS, in that workers would have had a better understanding of the hazards of the material and the precautions that are to be taken," said Sandra Glasbeek, manager of the Ontario Ministry of Labor's strategic policy unit.

The five workers were using cleaning solvent to remove excessive adhesive from a conveyor belt that led to a drying oven when fumes from the solvent ignited in the oven. One of the workers died from injuries suffered in the flash fire.

Under WHMIS, which came into effect in October, workers receive specific information on precautions to be taken and how to handle hazardous materials.

Suppliers of hazardous materials are required to provide this information in the form of material safety data sheets and special labelling. Employers, in turn, are required to ensure that information does come with the hazardous material and that workers are informed — and trained.

If WHMIS had been in place before the flash fire occurred, information on the hazards of the cleaning solvent, including its flammability,

would have been provided to the employees through labels and material safety data sheets, says Glasbeek.

In addition, as required by WHMIS, the employees would have received education/training on what procedures to use.

Under WHMIS, "workplaces are intended to have procedures in place, all procedures in place, to ensure that materials can be used safely," said Glasbeek.

She notes that employers at many small companies, like their employees, were not made aware of the nature of the hazardous materials used in their workplace prior to WHMIS, because there was no requirement that the supplier provide that information to workplaces.

"The only duty on the supplier would have been a duty under general tort law or manufacturer's liability," says Glasbeek.

Following an investigation of the accident, ministry orders were issued to ensure the company obtained material safety data sheets for all hazardous materials used at its plant.

The company was fined \$15,000 for failing to ensure adequate protection for its employees.

On its own, the company decided to substitute a non-flammable cleaning solvent for the solvent previously used at the plant.

In order to illustrate the impact WHMIS may have, Glasbeek agreed to comment on a specific case if company and employee names were not used.

She believes WHMIS regulations may save lives.