

WHMIS SYMBOLS & CLASSIFICATION



CLASS A: COMPRESSED GAS

A gas or liquid that boils at or below ordinary temperatures, in a pressurized container. This class includes compressed gases, dissolved gases, and gases liquefied by compression or refrigeration.

U of W Examples: propane, compressed air, carbon dioxide (fire extinguishers), nitrogen, welding gases

Handling instructions: Handle with care, do not drop cylinder. Keep cylinder away from potential ignition sources. Store containers in designated areas.



CLASS B: FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL

This class includes solids, liquids, and gases capable of catching fire in the presence of a spark or open flame under normal working conditions.

U of W Examples: spray paint, gasoline, propane, alcohols, acetone, sodium, toluene, ethanol

Handling instructions: Keep away from heat sources and other combustible materials. Never smoke around materials. Store in a cool, fire-proof area.



CLASS C: OXIDIZING MATERIAL

These materials increase the risk of fire if they come in contact with flammable or combustible materials.

U of W Examples: hydrogen peroxide, oxygen gas, bleach, nitric acid, potassium permanganate

Handling instructions: Keep away from combustible materials & store in designated area. Keep away from sources of ignition. Never smoke around materials. Wear personal protective equipment (PPE).



CLASS D: POISONOUS AND INFECTIOUS MATERIAL Division 1: Materials Causing Immediate and **Serious Toxic Effects**

These materials can cause death or immediate injury when a person is exposed to small amounts.

U of W Examples: antifreeze, sodium cyanide, hydrogen sulphide, sulfuric acid, carbon monoxide, acrylonitrile

Handling instructions: Handle with extreme caution. Wear personal protective equipment, avoid contact with skin and eyes. Avoid inhaling, work in well-vented areas or wear respiratory protection equipment.



CLASS D: POISONOUS AND INFECTIOUS MATERIAL Division 2: Materials Causing Other Toxic **EFFECTS**

These materials can cause life-threatening and serious long-term health problems as well as less severe but immediate reactions in a person who is repeatedly exposed to small amounts.

U of W Examples: latex, lead, mercury, benzene

Handling instructions: Avoid skin & eye contact, wear personal protective equipment (PPE). Avoid inhaling by working in well-vented areas. Store in designated areas only.



CLASS D: POISONOUS AND INFECTIOUS MATERIAL Division 3: Biohazardous Infectious MATERIAL

These materials contain harmful micro-organisms that are believed to cause disease and have been classified into Risk Groups 2, 3, and 4 as determined by the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Medical Research Council of Canada.

U of W Examples: blood contaminated with AIDS/HIV virus, Hepatitis B, Salmonella

Handling instructions: Take every measure to avoid contamination. Handle material only when fully protected. Handle materials in designated areas only.



CLASS E: CORROSIVE MATERIAL

This class includes caustic and acid materials that can destroy the skin or eat through metals

U of W Examples: sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, hydrofluoric acid, sulfuric acid, caustic soda, ammonium hydroxide, cleaners & disinfectants (ie. Tilex)

Handling instructions: Keep containers tightly closed. Avoid skin & eye contact by wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). Avoid inhaling – use in well-vented area and/or wear PPE.



CLASS F: DANGEROUSLY REACTIVE MATERIAL

These products may self-react dangerously (for example, they may explode) upon standing or when exposed to physical shock or to increased pressure or temperature, or they emit toxic gases when exposed to water.

U of W Examples: fiberglass repair kits & epoxy resins, nitroglycerine, anhydrous aluminum chloride, picric acid, vinyl chloride

Handling instructions: Keep away from heat. Open containers carefully, do not drop them. Store material in cool, fire-proof, designated area.



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