

## **Transitioning from WHMIS 1988 to WHMIS 2015: U of G Laboratory Chemical Relabeling.**

WHMIS legislation has recently changed to adopt new international standards for classifying hazardous materials. This transition affects all faculty, staff and students at the University of Guelph working with hazardous materials.

All chemicals require WHMIS 2015 safety data sheets and compliant labels. To maintain compliance, any chemicals you wish to keep that do not have a WHMIS 2015 label require an updated WHMIS compliant label. Failure to comply may result in penalties from the Ministry of Labour. WHMIS compliant labels are being provided to University personnel as required. You are asked to complete the relabeling of your inventories by October 31, 2019.

In this package, you will find WHMIS compliant workplace labels that need to be placed on all containers larger than 3ml in size, that have a WHMIS 1988 label (i.e. those received prior to December 1, 2018). Additional labels will be available from your department.

1. There are 3 sizes of workplace labels. Choose the appropriate size based on the size of the chemical container.
2. Place the workplace label on the container so as not to obstruct important identity and hazard information on the original label. The original label is not to be removed or defaced.
3. Small containers of compatible materials that are difficult to label due to their size can be grouped in larger containers e.g. Ziploc bags, with the label placed on the larger container.
4. Chemicals stored in freezers or refrigerators may need to be brought to room temperature for labelling if possible.
  - a. If the chemical containers cannot be thawed, a large Ziploc bag (or plastic container if required) can be labelled with and containers stored within this outer container/bag.

Please use the images below for appropriate labeling options.

Figure 1. Examples of appropriate placement of WHMIS 2015 labels



Figure 2. Examples of existing WHMIS 1988 and WHMIS 2015 labels

<p>WHMIS 1988 label Relabeling required</p>	<p>Old laboratory label Relabeling required</p>	<p>WHMIS 2015 label Relabeling NOT required</p>

Should you have any questions please call EHS Lab safety officer at ext.: 54270.