

WHMIS Labeling

A number of AIA members have asked the association to clarify WHMIS Labeling on Decanted Products, so we spoke to the appropriate government department and here is the answer.

When referring to a "controlled product, "Workplace label" means a label that discloses:

- a) a product identifier identical to that found on the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for the controlled product
- b) information for the safe handling of the controlled product, and
- c) that a material safety data sheet, if supplied or produced, is available

A workplace label for employer-produced products, that are WHMIS controlled, the regulation reads as follows: "an employer who produces a controlled product in a workplace shall ensure that the controlled product or the container of the controlled product has a workplace label. This does not apply when the controlled product is in a container that is intended to contain it for sale or disposition and the container is, or is about to be appropriately labeled R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 860, s. 9."

If a controlled product that an employer receives in a container from a supplier is transferred to another container, the employer must ensure that the other container has a workplace label. No supplier label or workplace label is required on a portable container that is filled directly from a container of a controlled product with a supplier label or workplace label if the controlled product is under the control of and is used exclusively by the worker who filled the portable container; the controlled product is used only during the shift in which the portable container was filled; and the contents of the portable container are clearly identified, or if all of the controlled product in the portable container is required for immediate use "R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 860, s. 10."

Employers may make their own workplace label or they may purchase a pre-made or pre-formatted label from their supplier and affix it to the new container. The

Ministry of Labour does not require an employer to purchase a label, although the Ministry does advise that this is an option.

The Ministry also advises that the Canadian Centre for Occupational Safety & Health has some excellent resource material on WHMIS; the link to the fact sheet on WHMIS labels is www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/legisl/msds_lab.html.

For more information on WHMIS, visit the AIA website at www.aiacanada.com or call Deborah at (613) 728-5821 ext 223. 📞

