# Spot The Safety Violation: Is This a Proper WHMIS Label?



**Spot the Safety Violation** 

# Is this a Proper GHS/WHMIS Label'

What's wrong with this picture'



The answer, of course, is not a proper WHMIS label. And while it may be better than no label at all, this makeshift 'UNKNOWN' tag is appallingly inadequate'especially when you consider that this photo comes from a chemical laboratory.

The Moral: Hazardous products must have a proper GHS/WHMIS

label. If you're not sure what's inside a container, either find somebody who does or get rid of the thing. And please, please DO NOT keep the container in a pantry!!

#### WHAT'S AT STAKE

### 4 Reasons Your Workers Need to Know about GHS/WHMIS Labels

- 1. They work with or near hazardous products that can make them seriously ill or even kill them
- 2. OHS and company rules guarantee workers the Right to Know about these products
- 3. Putting labels on containers of hazardous products that list key information about the product, why it's dangerous and what workers can do to protect themselves is a crucial element of the worker's Right to Know
- 4. Even if workers are already familiar with WHMIS product labels, the new GHS/WHMIS 2015 rules change the label they may be used to

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OLD & NEW WHMIS 2015/GHS LABELS

WHMIS	GHS
Under the Hazardous Product Act and Controlled Products Regulations, supplier labels for "controlled products" must generally:  1) Disclose in English and French the following information:  • the product identifier  • the supplier identifier  • a statement to the effect that an MSDS is available  • hazard symbols that correspond with the classes in which the controlled product is included and the divisions into which the controlled product falls  • where the container has a capacity of more than 100 ml, the following information:  • risk phrases that are appropriate to the controlled product or to the classes, divisions or subdivisions into which the controlled product falls  • precautionary measures to be followed when handling, using or being exposed to the controlled product  • where appropriate, first aid measures to be taken in case of exposure to the controlled product  2) Be applied  • within a border that is  • in a colour that contrasts with the background against which it appears  • designed as depicted in Schedule III of the Regulation  • on a part of the controlled product or container that's displayed under normal conditions of storage and use  3) Be clearly and prominently displayed, easily legible and contrasted with other information on the controlled product or container  4) Be sufficiently durable and resistant under normal conditions of transport, storage and use to remain attached and legible	A GHS label requires the following information:  Signal words Hazard statements Frequency statements and pictograms Frequency statement statement should be in the shape of a square set on a point the hazard pictograms, signal word and hazard statement should be located together on the label.  In addition to its use on pictograms, colour can be used on other areas of the label to implement special labelling requirements.

- **DO** store chemicals in their original containers
- DON'T use chemicals that aren't properly labeled like the one in the photo above
- **DO** follow the label instructions and safe work procedures when working with chemicals
- DON'T keep chemicals in lunchrooms or other areas where people eat and drink
- **DO** use the recommended PPE when working with a chemical
- DON'T mix chemicals unless you're sure they won't react
- **DO** ask questions if you're not sure about a chemical's dangers or how to work with it safely
- DON'T use flammable chemicals near a source of ignition