Guide to WHMIS 2015 Hazard Class Descriptions

Hazard class categories and types indicate the level of danger associated with a chemical. The lower the number or letter, the more danger is posed by that chemical and the greater the precautions that must be taken to use or work with that chemical.

Physical Hazard Classes					
Hazard Class	Category	Signal Word	Hazard Statement	Pictogram	
Flammable Gases	Category 1	Danger	Extremely flammable gas		
	Category 2	Warning	Flammable gas	No pictogram	
Flammable Aerosols	Category 1	Danger	Extremely flammable aerosol. Pressurized container: May burst if heated		
	Category 2	Warning	Flammable aerosol. Pressurized container: May burst if heated		
Oxidizing Gases	Category 1	Danger	May cause or intensify fire; oxidizer		
Gases Under Pressure	Compressed Gas	Warning	Contains gas under pressure; may explode if heated		

	Liquefied Gas	Warning	Contains gas under pressure; may explode if heated	
	Refrigerated Liquefied Gas	Warning	Contains refrigerated gas; may cause cryogenic burns or injury	$\mathbf{\widehat{\mathbf{A}}}$
	Dissolved Gas	Warning	Contains gas under pressure; may explode if heated	
Flammable Liquids	Category 1	Danger	Extremely flammable liquid and vapour	
	Category 2	Danger	Highly flammable liquid and vapour	
	Category 3	Warning	Flammable liquid and vapour	
	Category 4	Warning	Combustible liquid	No pictogram
Flammable Solid	Category 1	Danger	Flammable solid	
	Category 2	Warning	Flammable solid	
Self-reactive Substances and Mixtures	Туре А	Danger	Heating may cause an explosion	

	Туре В	Danger	Heating may cause a fire or an explosion	
	Type C	Danger	Heating may cause a fire	
	Type D	Danger	Heating may cause a fire	
	Туре Е	Warning	Heating may cause a fire	
	Type F	Warning	Heating may cause a fire	
	Type G	No signal word	There are no label elements associated with this category	No pictogram
Pyrophoric Liquids	Category 1	Danger	Catches fire spontaneously if exposed to air	
Pyrophoric Solids	Category 1	Danger	Catches fire spontaneously if exposed to air	
Self-heating Substances and Mixtures	Category 1	Danger	Self-heating; may catch fire	

	Category 2	Warning	Self-heating in large quantities; may catch fire	
Substances and Mixtures Which, In Contact with Water, Emit Flammable	Category 1	Danger	In contact with water releases flammable gases which may ignite spontaneously	
Gases	Category 2	Danger	In contact with water releases flammable gases	
	Category 3	Warning	In contact with water releases flammable gases	
Oxidizing Liquids	Category 1	Danger	May cause fire or explosion; strong oxidizer	
	Category 2	Danger	May intensify fire; strong oxidizer	
	Category 3	Warning	May intensify fire; oxidizer	
Oxidizing Solids	Category 1	Danger	May cause fire or explosion; strong oxidizer	
	Category 2	Danger	May intensify fire; strong oxidizer	

	Category 3	Warning	May intensify fire; oxidizer	
Organic Peroxides	Туре А	Danger	Heating may cause an explosion	
	Туре В	Danger	Heating may cause a fire or explosion	
	Туре С	Danger	Heating may cause a fire	
	Type D	Danger	Heating may cause a fire	
	Туре Е	Warning	Heating may cause a fire	
	Type F	Warning	Heating may cause a fire	
	Type G	No signal word	There are no label elements associated with this category	No pictogram
Corrosive to Metals	Category 1	Warning	May be corrosive to metals	
Combustible Dusts	Category 1	Warning	May form combustible dust concentrations in air	No pictogram
Simple Asphyxiants	Category 1	Warning	May displace oxygen and cause rapid suffocation	No pictogram

Pyrophoric Gases	Category 1	Danger	Catches fire spontaneously if exposed to air	
Physical Hazards not Otherwise Classified	Category 1	Danger	Wording that describes the nature of the hazard	Any symbol in Schedule 3 that is applicable to the hazard
Health Hazard Cla	asses			
Acute Toxicity - Oral	Category 1	Danger	Fatal if swallowed	J.
	Category 2	Danger	Fatal if swallowed	
	Category 3	Danger	Toxic if swallowed	
	Category 4	Warning	Harmful if swallowed	
Acute Toxicity - Dermal	Category 1	Danger	Fatal in contact with skin	
	Category 2	Danger	Fatal in contact with skin	
	Category 3	Danger	Toxic in contact with skin	

	Category 4	Warning	Harmful in contact with skin	
Acute Toxicity - Inhalation	Category 1	Danger	Fatal if inhaled	
	Category 2	Danger	Fatal if inhaled	
	Category 3	Danger	Toxic if inhaled	
	Category 4	Warning	Harmful if inhaled	
Skin Corrosion	Category 1A	Danger	Causes severe skin burns and eye damage	Carl Carl
	Category 1B	Danger	Causes severe skin burns and eye damage	
	Category 1C	Danger	Causes severe skin burns and eye damage	Chell Chell
Skin Irritation	Category 2	Warning	Causes skin irritation	

Serious Eye Damage	Category 1	Danger	Causes serious eye damage	
Senous Eye Damage	Category I	Danger	Causes serious eye damage	
Eye Irritation	Category 2A	Warning	Causes serious eye irritation	
	Category 2B	Warning	Causes eye irritation	
Respiratory Sensitizer	Category 1A	Danger	May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled	
	Category 1B	Danger	May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled	
Skin Sensitizer	Category 1A	Warning	May cause an allergic skin reaction	
	Category 1B	Warning	May cause an allergic skin reaction	
Germ Cell Mutagenicity	Category 1A	Danger	May cause genetic defects (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
	Category 1B	Danger	May cause genetic defects (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
	Category 2	Warning	Suspected of causing genetic defects (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	

Carcinogenicity	Category 1A	Danger	May cause cancer (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
	Category 1B	Danger	May cause cancer (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
	Category 2	Warning	Suspected of causing cancer (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
Reproductive Toxicity	Category 1A	Danger	May damage fertility or the unborn child (state specific effect if known) (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
	Category 1B	Danger	May damage fertility or the unborn child (state specific effect if known) (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
	Category 2	Warning	Suspected of damaging fertility or the unborn child (state specific effect if known) (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
	Effects on or via Lactation	No signal word	May cause harm to breast fed children	No pictogram
Specific Target Organ Toxicity – Single Exposure	Category 1	Danger	Causes damage to organs (or state all organs affected, if known)(state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
	Category 2	Warning	May cause damage to organs (or state all organs affected, if known)(state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
	Category 3	Warning	May cause respiratory irritation; or May cause drowsiness or dizziness	

Specific Target Organ Toxicity – Repeated Exposure	Category 1	Danger	Causes damage to organs (or state all organs affected, if known)(state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
	Category 2	Warning	May cause damage to organs (or state all organs affected, if known)(state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)	
Aspiration Hazard	Category 1	Danger	May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways	
Biohazardous Infectious Materials	Category 1	Danger	Wording that describes the nature of the hazard	
Health Hazards Not Otherwise Classified	Category 1	Danger	Wording that describes the nature of the hazard	Any symbol in Schedule 3 that is applicable to the hazard

Prepared from the following source documents:

- 1. Hazardous Products Regulations SOR/2015-17, Government of Canada
- 2. Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), 5th revised edition, 2013, United Nations.