

JOHSC WHMIS Quick Guide (District Sites)

JOHSC Role

Help the site identify gaps and risks related to hazardous products and follow up so inventory, labels, SDS access, storage, training, and disposal processes are in place.

Walkthrough: What to Look For

- Hazardous products present (cleaners, solvents, paints, fuels, lab chemicals, aerosols).
- Supplier label present and readable on each container.
- Workplace labels on decanted containers (spray bottles, smaller containers).
- SDS available for each WHMIS-controlled product and easy to access (binder and/or digital).
- Storage aligned with SDS instructions and incompatibles separated.
- Products stored securely (not near food, not in public/student areas, away from heat/ignition sources).
- Expired, deteriorating, or unnecessary stock identified.
- Any unlabeled or unknown substances identified for removal from service and disposal.

Red Flags That Need Follow-Up

- Unlabeled containers or products with missing/illegible labels.
- No SDS available, or SDS not accessible during operating hours.
- Acids stored with bases, oxidizers stored with flammables, or reactive products stored together.
- Flammables stored outside approved storage (where required) or near ignition sources.
- Chemicals stored in food containers or in food storage areas.
- Unknown substances kept “just in case.”

Simple Follow-Up Actions

- Record the item, location, and issue (label/SDS/storage/unknown) and share with the site leader and Facilities as needed.
- Support locating missing SDSs and organizing access.
- Encourage timely labeling of decanted containers.
- Encourage storage changes aligned with SDS instructions.
- Ensure first aid attendants know where SDSs are and can reference Section 4 for exposures.
- Initiate hazardous waste/unknown substance disposal through the District Principal of OHS (OHS@sd64.org)

Suggested JOHSC Standing Agenda Items (WHMIS)

- Inventory status and any new products introduced
- Missing SDSs or label issues
- Storage improvements completed / outstanding
- Incidents or near-misses involving chemicals and lessons learned
- Training status / upcoming training needs
- Hazardous waste disposal work orders submitted and completed