



WHMIS and GHS in Canada – Overview and Updates

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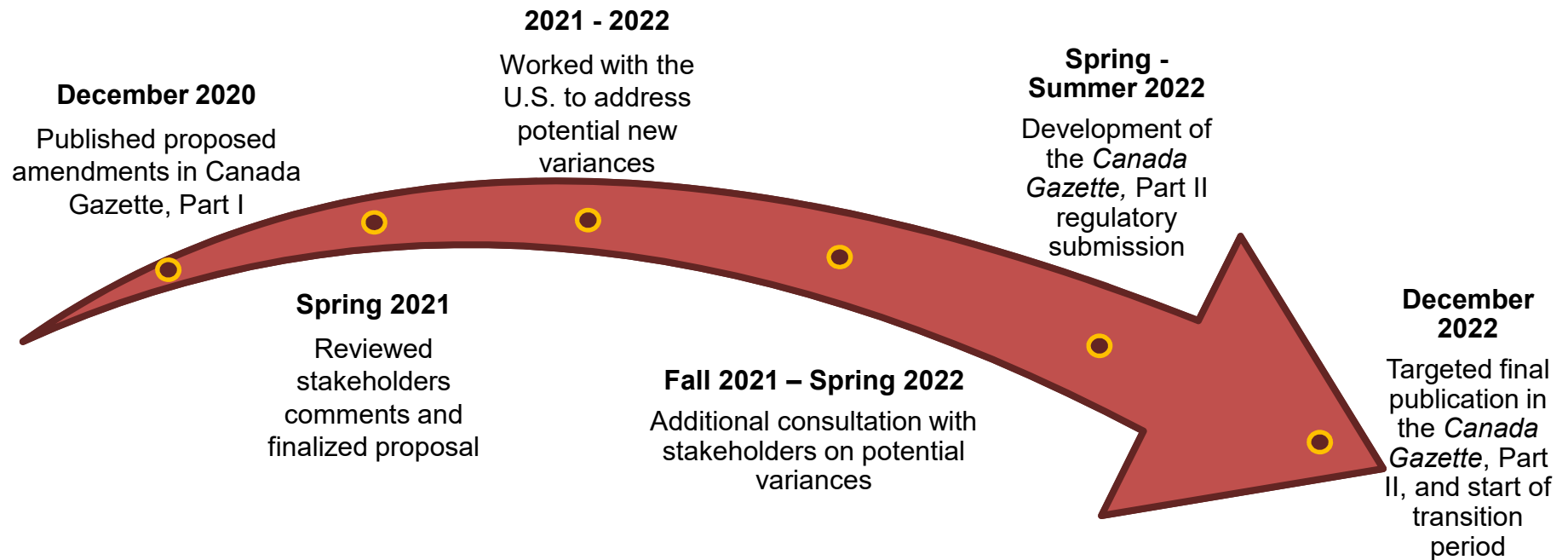
Overview

- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Recap
- *Hazardous Products Regulations* (HPR) amendments update
- *Hazardous Materials Information Review Act* (HMIRA) modernization update
- Upcoming Initiatives

WHMIS Recap

- WHMIS is Canada's national hazard communication standard for hazardous products that are sold in or imported into Canada, and that are intended for use, handling or storage in Canadian workplaces
- WHMIS is implemented through coordinated federal, provincial and territorial legislation
- Health Canada administers the *Hazardous Products Act* (HPA) and the associated HPR, which set the WHMIS supplier requirements, including the label, Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and product exclusions
- The HMIRA and the *Hazardous Materials Information Review Regulations* (HMIRR) provide a mechanism to protect confidential business information (CBI)

HPR amendments to align with the 7th edition of the GHS



Health Canada has worked closely with the U.S. to reduce impacts caused by potential variances in amendments proposed by both jurisdictions.

HMIRA modernization update

- ❖ New innovative and automated processes
 - ❖ Improved CBI claims process

New innovative and automated processes

Health Canada has developed new tools to support a modernized HMIRA program.

List of claims for exemption under the Hazardous Materials Information Review Act

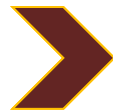


Transparent, user-friendly format for claimants and product end-users



Link: <https://matieres-dangereuses.canada.ca/en/claims>

New online application form for CBI claims



Easier, streamlined CBI claims application process



<https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/apps/radar/HPP-PPD-0001.08.html>

Improved CBI claims process

Claim validity determinations

We now issue claim validity determinations **separately** from those for compliance verification

Validity determinations are more predictable and timely



More **timely** decisions will better **protect workers** and reduce their risk

SDS and label compliance verification

We are using a risk-based approach to prioritize which products to assess for SDS and label compliance

The focus is on products with greater potential risks to worker health and safety, maximizing the impact of compliance reviews

Compliance verification is undertaken **in full** on selected SDSs and labels

Claimants remain responsible for ensuring their SDSs and labels are compliant. Compliance and enforcement action will be taken, as appropriate, where non-compliances are identified.

New and Upcoming Initiatives

- ❖ New HPA compliance promotion & outreach tools
 - ❖ Consumer product exclusion



New and Upcoming initiatives



Product Label Comparison Tool

Hazardous product and consumer product label comparison
Posted on the [WHMIS.org](https://www.whmisk.org) website



HPR Technical Decision Trees

In collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety
Will be posted on the [WHMIS.org](https://www.whmisk.org) website by March 2023



Hazardous Substance Assessments (HSA)

Support SDS and label compliance for hazardous products in Canada
The [HSA page](#) on Canada.ca will be updated as new HSAs are published



Consumer Product Exclusion under the HPA

Further consultations expected in late 2022

Product Label Comparison Tool - Sample

Introduction

The purpose of this product label comparison tool is to help employers and workers better understand the label requirements for hazardous products under the [Hazardous Products Act](#) (HPA) compared to the label requirements for consumer products under the [Canada Consumer Product Safety Act](#) (CCPSA). This tool also highlights some of the differences between these two acts.

The tool is not intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the requirements of the HPA, [Hazardous Product Regulations](#) (HPR), CCPSA or [Consumer Chemicals and Containers Regulations, 2001](#) (CCCR, 2001). It should be referenced in conjunction with the relevant Act, Regulations, and other guidance materials. Regulated parties are responsible for ensuring that their products comply with the requirements of the HPA, HPR, CCPSA and CCCR, 2001, as appropriate.

Hazardous products that are intended to be used, stored or handled in a workplace in Canada are subject to the HPA and the HPR. Suppliers of these products must communicate their hazards on product labels and safety data sheets as a condition of sale and importation.

Chemical products that are classified as consumer products are regulated under the CCPSA and the CCCR, 2001. The CCCR, 2001 set out requirements for chemical products, including labelling requirements that describe potential short-term, acute hazards associated with the product.

Note: The required information of the CCCR, 2001 and HPR must appear on the product label in both English and French. For the purposes of this tool, the English and French text are displayed separately. Select the English and Français tabs at the top of the page to view the English or French text.

Example :

Hazardous Product Label

Product #1 / Produit #1



Danger

Causes severe skin burns and eye damage.

May cause cancer.

Precautions:

Obtain special instructions before use.

Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood.

Do not breathe dusts or mists.

Wash hands thoroughly after handling.

Wear protective gloves, protective clothing, eye protection and face protection.

IF SWALLOWED: Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting.

IF ON SKIN (or hair): Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water or shower.

IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing.

IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.

IF exposed or concerned: Get medical advice or attention.

Immediately call a POISON CENTRE or doctor.

Specific treatment (see on this label).

Wash contaminated clothing before reuse.

Store locked up.

Dispose of contents or container in accordance with local, regional, national and international regulations.



Company ABC, 123 Main St., Mytown ON NON ONO (123) 456-7890

Product Label Comparison Tool - Sample

Product #1	Product #2	Product #3
1. Highlights	Highlights Consumer product label does not include effects that can occur over the longer-term or from repeated exposures, such as cancer.	
2. Product Name		
3. Pictogram or Hazard Symbol		
4. Signal Word		
5. Hazard Statements		
6. Precautionary Statements or Instructions and First Aid Statement		
7. Initial Supplier Identifier		
8. Other Information		

Hazardous Product Label

**Product #1 /
Produit #1**

Danger
Causes severe skin burns and eye damage.
May cause cancer.

Precautions:
Obtain special instructions before use. Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood.
Do not breathe dusts or mists.
Wash hands thoroughly after handling.
Wear protective gloves, protective clothing, eye protection and face protection.
IF SWALLOWED: Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting.
IF ON SKIN (or hair): Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water or shower.
IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing.
IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.

IF exposed or concerned: Get medical advice or attention.
Immediately call a POISON CENTRE or doctor.
Specific treatment (see on this label).
Wash contaminated clothing before reuse.


Store locked up.
Dispose of contents or container in accordance with local, regional, national and international regulations.

Company ABC, 123 Main St., Mytown ON NON ONO (123) 456-7890

Main display panel

Consumer Product Label

**Product #1 /
Produit #1**



**DANGER
CORROSIVE / CORROSIF**

Company ABC, 123 Main St., Mytown ON NON ONO (123) 456-7890

Any part of the display surface

CAUSES BURNS. DANGEROUS FUMES FORM WHEN MIXED WITH OTHER PRODUCTS.

Do not mix with bleach or ammonia. Do not swallow. Do not get in eyes. Do not get on skin or clothing. Do not breathe fumes. Handle with care. Keep out of reach of children. Wear gloves and eye protection. Use only in a well ventilated area.

FIRST AID TREATMENT: Contains ingredient Y. If swallowed, call a Poison Control Centre or doctor immediately. Do not induce vomiting. If in eyes, rinse with water for several minutes. If on skin, rinse well with water. If on clothes, remove clothes. If breathed in, move person to fresh air.

Note: The required information of the CCCR, 2001 and HPR must appear on the product label in both English and French. For the purposes of this tool, the English and French text are displayed separately. Select the English and Français tabs at the top of the page to view the English or French text.

Product Label Comparison Tool - Sample

Product #2 Product #3

Highlights

Consumer product label does not include effects that can occur over the longer-term or from repeated exposures, such as respiratory and skin sensitization.

Hazardous Product Label

Product #2 /
Produit #2



Danger

Causes skin irritation.
May cause an allergic skin reaction.
Causes serious eye irritation.
May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled.

Precautions:

Avoid breathing dust, fume, gas, mist, vapours and spray.
Wash hands thoroughly after handling. Contaminated work clothing should not be allowed out of the workplace.
Wear protective gloves, protective clothing, eye protection and face protection.
In case of inadequate ventilation, wear respiratory protection.
IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of water.
IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing.
IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.
Specific treatment (see on this label).
If skin irritation or rash occurs: Get medical attention.
If eye irritation persists: Get medical attention.
If experiencing respiratory symptoms: Call a POISON CENTRE or doctor.
Take off contaminated clothing and wash it before reuse.
Dispose of contents or container in accordance with local, regional, national and international regulations.

Company 123, 456 Anywhere St., Mytown ON NON ONO (123) 456-7890

Main display panel

Consumer Product Label

Product #2 /
Produit #2

**CAUTION
IRRITANT**

Company 123, 456 Anywhere St., Mytown ON NON ONO (123) 456-7890

Any part of the display surface

MAY IRRITATE EYES. MAY IRRITATE SKIN.
DANGEROUS FUMES FORM WHEN MIXED WITH OTHER PRODUCTS.

Do not mix with bleach or ammonia. Do not get in eyes. Do not get on skin or clothing. Do not breathe fumes. Keep out of reach of children.

FIRST AID TREATMENT: Contains ingredient Z. If swallowed, call a Poison Control Centre or doctor immediately. Do not induce vomiting. If in eyes, rinse with water for several minutes. If on skin, rinse well with water.

Danger

Causes skin irritation.
May cause an allergic skin reaction.
Causes serious eye irritation.
May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled.

Precautions:

Avoid breathing dust, fume, gas, mist, vapours and spray.
Wash hands thoroughly after handling. Contaminated work clothing should not be allowed out of the workplace.
Wear protective gloves, protective clothing, eye protection and face protection.

In case of inadequate ventilation, wear respiratory protection.

IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of water.

IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing.

IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.

Specific treatment (see on this label).

If skin irritation or rash occurs: Get medical attention.

If eye irritation persists: Get medical attention.

If experiencing respiratory symptoms: Call a POISON CENTRE or doctor.

Take off contaminated clothing and wash it before reuse.

Dispose of contents or container in accordance with local, regional, national and international regulations.

**CAUTION
IRRITANT**

Company 123, 456 Anywhere St., Mytown ON NON ONO (123) 456-7890

Any part of the display surface

MAY IRRITATE EYES. MAY IRRITATE SKIN.
DANGEROUS FUMES FORM WHEN MIXED WITH OTHER PRODUCTS.

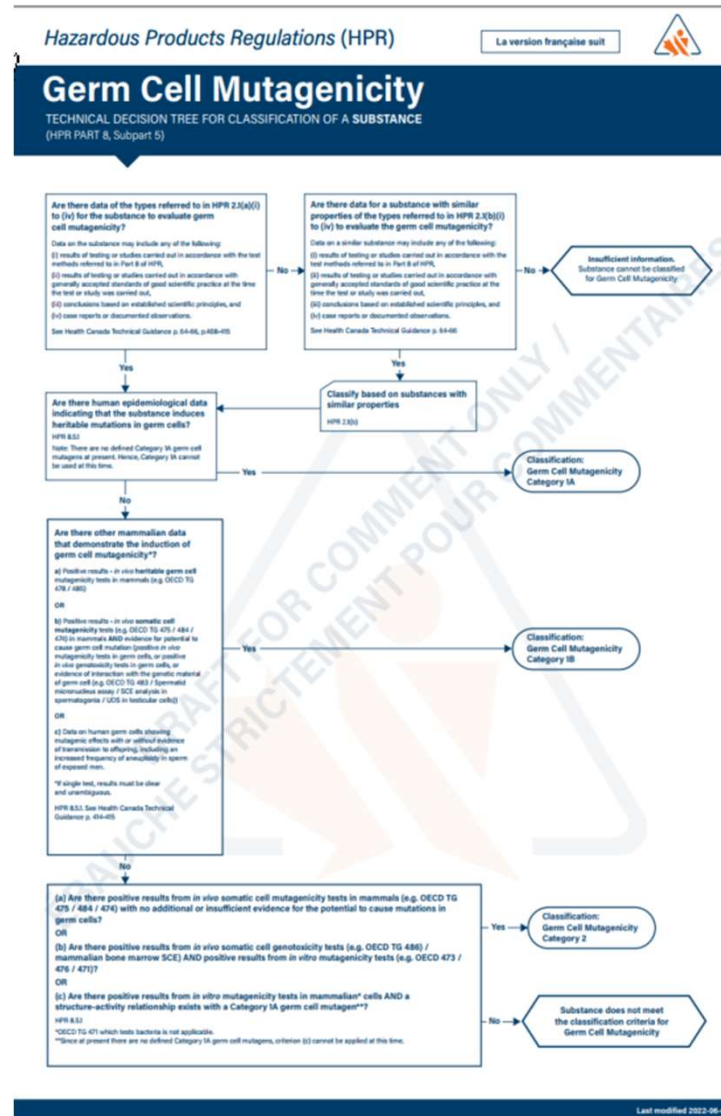
Do not mix with bleach or ammonia. Do not get in eyes. Do not get on skin or clothing. Do not breathe fumes. Keep out of reach of children.

FIRST AID TREATMENT: Contains ingredient Z. If swallowed, call a Poison Control Centre or doctor immediately. Do not induce vomiting. If in eyes, rinse with water for several minutes. If on skin, rinse well with water.

Technical Decision Trees

- New **educational logic models**, called Technical Decision Trees, will help suppliers visualize how to classify the hazards of products
- The trees take suppliers through health hazard classes (Subparts 1-12 of Part 8 of the *Hazardous Products Regulations* (HPR)) to demonstrate key classification steps, following the order of classification provisions
- Not exhaustive of all classification requirements, do not cover all relevant HC guidance and are not meant to replace nor add to the requirements of the HPA or HPR
 - For further information on interpreting classification requirements of the HPR, users should also refer to the Technical Guidance
- Developed in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety for posting on the WHMIS.org website and will be updated following each HPR amendment

Technical Decision Trees - Sample



Technical Decision Trees - Sample

Hazardous Products Regulations (HPR)

La version française suit



Skin Corrosion/Irritation

TECHNICAL DECISION TREE FOR CLASSIFICATION OF A **SUBSTANCE**
(HPR PART 8, Subpart 2)

NOTE ON CLASSIFICATION:

Classification **MUST** proceed in accordance with the order of sections 8.2.2 to 8.2.7 in the HPR, unless, after applying subsections 8.2.2(1) to (3) it is determined that the substance is not classified according to the criteria in subsection 8.2.2(4).
HPR 8.2.1. See Health Canada Technical Guidance p. 354-362.

Are there substance-specific data of the types referred to in HPR 2.1(a)(i) to (iv) to evaluate skin corrosion/irritation?

Data on the substance may include any of the following:

- (i) results of testing or studies carried out in accordance with the test methods referred to in Part 8,
- (ii) results of testing or studies carried out in accordance with generally accepted standards of good scientific practice at the time the test or study was carried out,
- (iii) conclusions based on established scientific principles, and
- (iv) case reports or documented observations.

See Health Canada Technical Guidance p. 64-66.

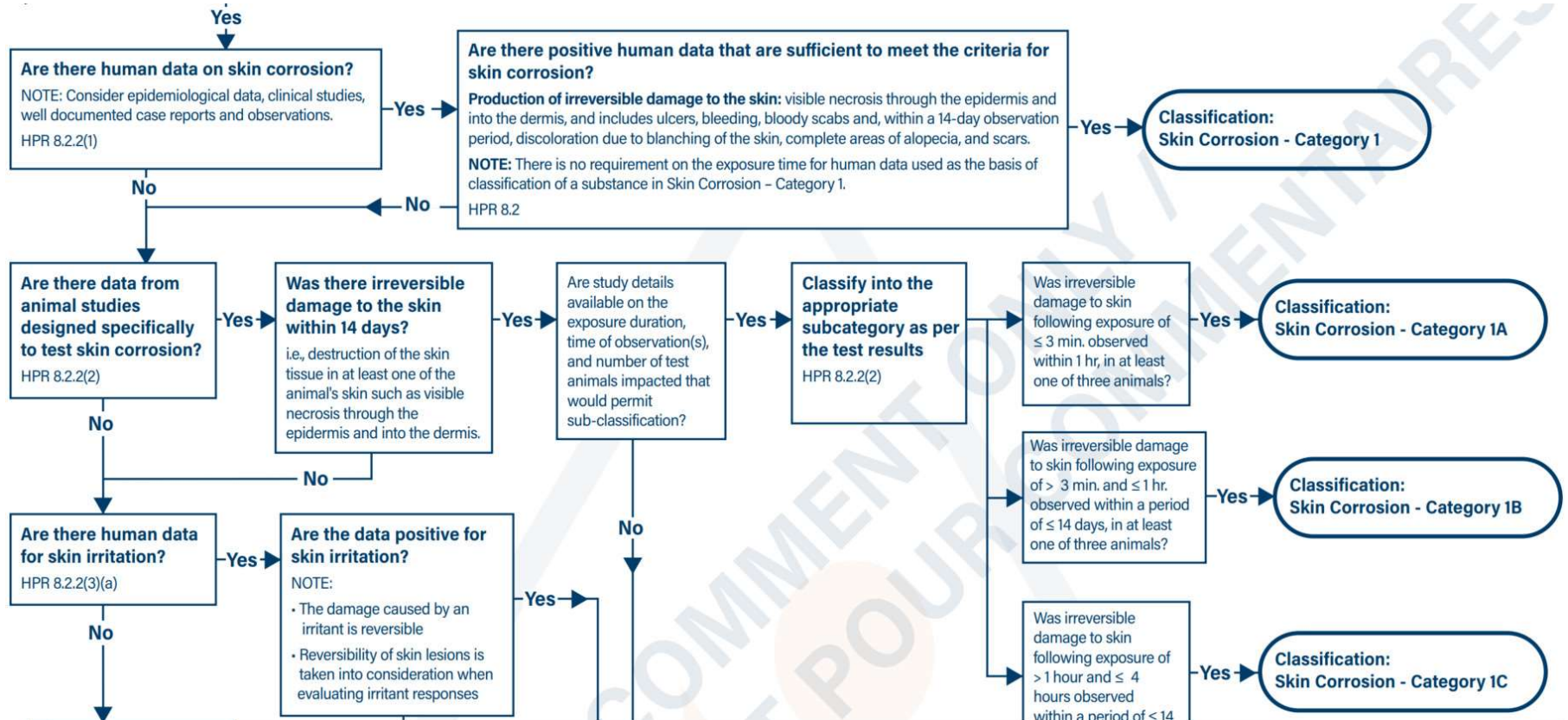
Yes

No

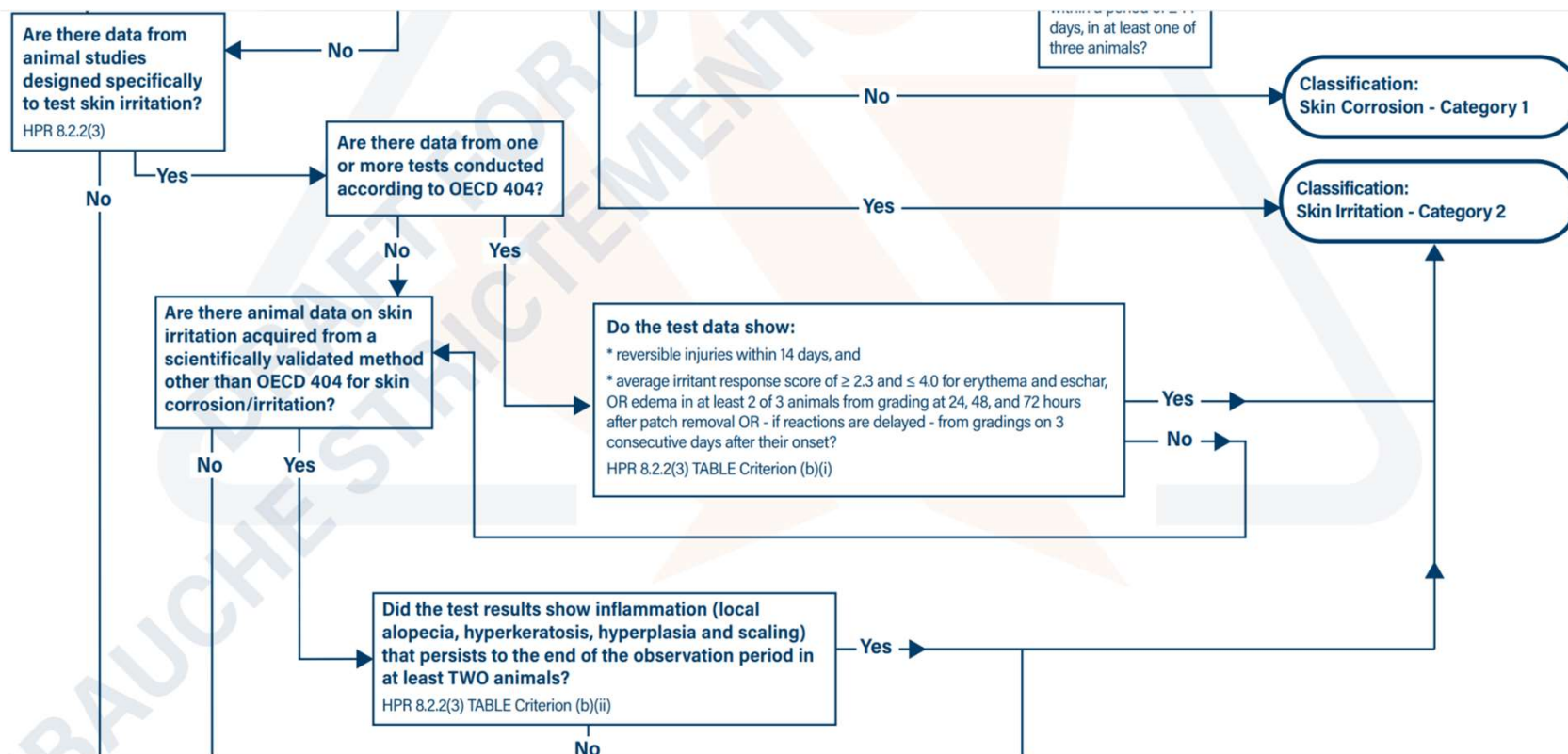
Insufficient information.

Substance cannot be classified for the Skin Corrosion/Irritation hazard class

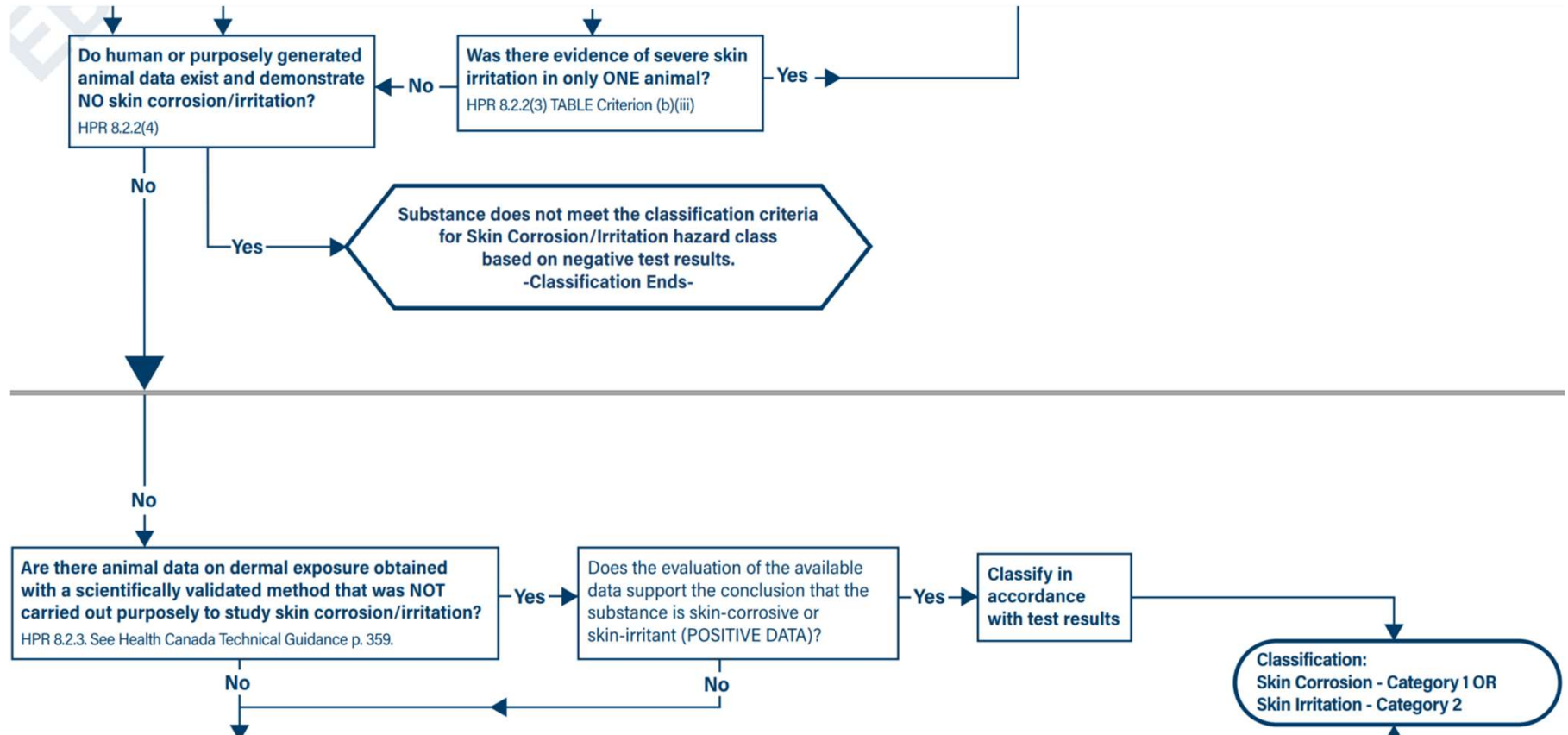
Technical Decision Trees - Sample



Technical Decision Trees - Walkthrough



Technical Decision Trees - Walkthrough



Hazardous Substance Assessments (HSA)

- **Publication of HSAs** on Canada.ca, supporting the creation of compliant SDSs and labels for workplace hazardous products imported into and sold in Canada
- HSAs contain periodically updated information on how we would assess and classify a given substance. However, for product compliance reviews, we may arrive at a different classification, by virtue of new data, supplier-provided study, or evolving science.
- Substance selection will be prioritized based on multiple sources of information (for example, substances most frequently used in hazardous products or classified as CMRR)
 - List of 'Top 100 substances by frequency' identified through review of ~25,000 Canadian SDS by third party
- The program plans to publish a minimum of 5 [Hazardous Substance Assessments](#) (HSAs) per year to provide helpful information to industry, with the next batch planned for publication by March 2023
- Suppliers remain responsible for the accuracy of the labels/SDSs of their hazardous products, including those containing HSA substances

Hazardous Substance Assessment - Example

Hazardous Substance Assessment - Acetone

Important Note: Hazardous Substance Assessments are technical documents that have been produced by Health Canada as educational and information resources for suppliers of hazardous products under the Hazardous Products Act and Regulations. For more information on supplier roles and responsibilities, visit [Supplier Responsibilities](#).

Identification

Chemical Name:

Acetone

CAS #:

67-64-1

Chemical Composition:

$(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CO}$

Synonyms:

2-Propanone; Propanone.

UN #:

1090 [Flammable liquid]

Pictogram(s):

Figure 1.



▶ Figure 1 - Text Description

Figure 2.



▶ Figure 2 - Text Description

Hazardous Substance Assessment - Example

WHMIS Classification

Health Hazards:

Serious Eye Damage / Eye Irritation: Category 2A

Physical Hazards:

Flammable Liquids: Category 2

Health Hazards

Acute Toxicity (Oral):

Does not meet criteria

LD₅₀: 5,800 mg/kg (rat, female) ¹.

The available data do not meet the classification criteria for Acute Toxicity (Oral).

Acute Toxicity (Dermal):

Does not meet criteria

LD₅₀: > 15,800 mg/kg (rabbit) ².

The available data do not meet the classification criteria for Acute Toxicity (Dermal).

Acute Toxicity (Inhalation - Gas):

No data available

Acute Toxicity (Inhalation - Vapour):

Does not meet criteria

LC₅₀: 76 mg/L (4 hr) (based on study summary ³).

The available data do not meet the classification criteria for Acute Toxicity (Inhalation - Vapour).

Acute Toxicity (Inhalation - Dust and Mist):

No data available

Skin Corrosion / Irritation:

Does not meet criteria

Hazardous Substance Assessment - Example

Regulatory and Other Information

Regulatory Information:

Hazardous Substance Assessments are prepared by Health Canada as educational and information resources. Under the *Hazardous Products Act* (HPA), suppliers of hazardous products must, upon the sale or importation of a hazardous product, provide a Safety Data Sheet that meets the requirements set out in the *Hazardous Products Regulations* (HPR). For more information, see the [Technical Guidance on the Requirements of the Hazardous Products Act \(HPA\) and the Hazardous Products Regulations \(HPR\) – WHMIS 2015 Supplier Requirements](#).

Other Information:

The information and classifications contained in these Hazardous Substance Assessments are based on publically available sources, such as peer-reviewed literature or reports by international bodies. New information, including proprietary information, could have an impact on the classification of substances or hazardous products containing them. It is the responsibility of the supplier to ensure the accuracy, sufficiency, and reliability of their hazardous product classifications.

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2020

Prepared By:

Workplace Hazardous Materials Bureau, Health Canada

References

1

Freeman, J. J. and Hayes, E. P. (1985) Acetone potentiation of acute acetonitrile toxicity in rats. *Journal of Toxicology & Environmental Health* 15:5:609-621.

Thank you!
Any questions?



**For general inquiries please contact:
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