



Health Canada  
Santé Canada

Reference Manual for the WHMIS  
Requirements of the  
*Hazardous Products Act and the  
Controlled Products Regulations*

Page:

54-1

Amended by:

Effective:

Regulation, section, title/subject:

**CPR Section 54 - Carcinogenicity [Class D; Division 2, Subdivision A]**

Manual updated:

2009/02/16

## Carcinogenicity

### 54. A pure substance or tested mixture falls into Subdivision A of Division 2 of Class D - Poisonous and Infectious Material if it is listed in

(a) section A1a, A1b or A2 of Appendix A of the *Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents in the Work Environment*, published by the ACGIH, as amended from time to time; or

(b) Group 1 or Group 2 in the *IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Humans*, published by the World Health Organization, as amended from time to time.

## DISCUSSION of SECTION 54

To determine whether or not a material is or contains a carcinogen, reference is made to two different documents: the TLV booklet published by ACGIH, and the IARC list of carcinogens. The substances included by reference to these publications are considered to be carcinogens under the *CPR*.

In 1987, the ACGIH modified Appendix A of their referenced publication to eliminate the designations A1a and A1b and replace them by the designation A1. This modification also removed listings of carcinogens from Appendix A to the Table of Chemical Substances with Adopted TLVs.

The applicable portion of the ACGIH publication was modified again breaking what had been four groupings into five. In March 1996, the WHMIS Current Issues Committee agreed that paragraph 54(a) be revised to include categories A1, A2 and A3; {ref.: PIS 72(b)}.

**Note:** As the proposed revision to paragraph 54(a) has not been published in the *Canada Gazette Part II*, if a controlled product does not otherwise fall within any other Class D criteria specified in the *CPR*, a supplier would not be legally obliged to depict the symbol corresponding to Division 2 of Class D (i.e., the stylized "T") on the sole basis that it is included in ACGIH A3; (i.e., inclusion in A3 would not constitute the sole criterion for classification as a controlled product in the absence of a regulatory amendment.)

ACGIH - [www.acgih.org/](http://www.acgih.org/)  
IARC - <http://www.iarc.fr/index.html>  
Health Canada - [www.whmis.gc.ca](http://www.whmis.gc.ca)

In general, if an IARC monograph does not specifically address a chemical or group of chemicals, the results of the assessment described in the monograph may not apply. The chemical or group of chemicals would not necessarily, as a consequence of the chemical or group of chemicals sharing a common element or functional group with a substance that has been assessed, fall within the criteria specified in paragraph 54(b) of the *CPR*.



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Page:

54-2

Amended by:

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**Note:** for the purposes of classification under CPR 54, posting of an IARC classification on the IARC Web site is considered sufficient for inclusion in the applicable IARC Group irrespective of the whether the official monograph has been published.

Similarly if a chemical or a group of chemicals is not specifically encompassed under ACGIH A1, A2 nor A3, the chemical or group of chemicals would not, as a consequence of the chemical or group of chemicals sharing a common element or functional group with a substance that has been assessed, necessarily fall within the criteria specified in paragraph 54(a) of the *CPR*.

**Note:** Consistent with section 33 of the *CPR*, the fact that a product or a group of products was not specifically addressed in the IARC monograph nor classified under group A1, A2, or A3 by the ACGIH does not relieve the supplier or importer of his / her obligation to consider other evidence that carcinogenic (or other health) effects may result from exposure to the substance(s).

**Substances assessed for carcinogenicity:** A list of substances assessed for carcinogenicity by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA), the International Agency of Research on Cancer (IARC), the European Union (E.U.), and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) is posted on the "Hazard-specific" section of the Health Canada WHMIS web site.