

# CIMCOOL<sup>®</sup>

# Technical Report

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## *METALWORKING FLUIDS AND CANADIAN REGULATIONS: Issues and Answers*

When used properly, metalworking fluids can provide a safe productivity enhancement for manufacturers in Canada. The Canadian government has put a number of regulations and guidelines in place to help ensure workplace and product safety. Since these regulations apply to metalworking fluids, knowledge and awareness of them is essential. These regulations include:

### **Product Labels:**

The product label for your metalworking fluid should contain the following information:

- Product Identifier
- Supplier Identifier
- A notification that a Material Safety Data Sheet is available
- Applicable hazard symbols
- Possible risks, precautionary measures and appropriate first aid measures

This information should provide the basic use and handling information to use the product safely.

### **WHMIS:**

The *Work Place Hazardous Material Information System* is in place to ensure that all workers have access to the information they need to safely use and handle materials in the workplace. This also applies to metalworking fluids used in your shop. Two (2) of the major components of WHMIS legislation are: specialized labeling and material safety data sheets (MSDS).

WHMIS labels must include:

- Availability in both official languages
- Cross-hatch border
- WHMIS Hazard symbol
- Product name
- Safe handling instructions
- Reference to the Material Safety Data Sheet

### **MSDS:**

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) must be made available to all workers using or handling metalworking fluids in the official language of choice. All MSDSs must be re-issued every three years at a maximum. They have 9 or 16 sections that provide product details including:

- Product and Supplier Identification
- Emergency Information
- Hazardous Ingredients
- Toxicological Properties
- Exposure Guidelines
- Emergency and First Aid Procedures
- Preventative Measures
- Accidental Release Measures
- Waste Disposal
- Handling and Storage
- Transportation Information
- Fire and Explosion Hazard Data
- Physical / Chemical Characteristic
- Reactivity
- MSDS Preparation information
- Other Information

### **Domestic Substances List:**

One aspect of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) is the Domestic Substances List (DSL). The DSL is a list issued by Environment Canada and includes all chemicals that can be used and/or imported into Canada in unlimited quantities. However, other regulations may also apply to certain chemicals that are listed on the DSL. Not all substances in use in other parts of the world (including the United States) are approved in Canada. Your metalworking fluid supplier has the responsibility to ensure that all ingredients in their fluids are in compliance with CEPA regulations.

### **Corporate Restrictions:**

Many industries have unique requirements for the fluids used in the manufacture of components for their products. These industries include:

Aerospace, Automotive, Nuclear, Military and many others

It is the responsibility of the fluid supplier to ensure that the metalworking fluid used meets these individual requirements. Speak with your fluid supplier if you have any concerns. ■

**NOTE:** This Technical Report is meant for guidance only. See the appropriate government regulations for full details. ([www.gc.ca](http://www.gc.ca))