

App Review: WorkSafe – a New App for Occupational Health & Safety

Developed for The Young Worker's Safety Initiative from the Career Education Council



App Description: WorkSafe was created for young workers in Ontario. Use WorkSafe:

- To learn what your rights are as a worker in Ontario,
- To study WHMIS,
- To stay active and healthy at sedentary jobs. Use our timer and stretches to break up long periods of sitting.

The App:

WorkSafe has 4 options when you reach the homepage: Know Your Rights, Stretches & Reminders, WHMIS and About. We will go through each section.

Know Your Rights:

Under the Know your Rights header, there are two sections that you can choose from – Learn More or Take the Quiz. Under the Learn More option you are provided with valuable information that is applicable to every workplace, such as every worker's three (3) main rights under the Occupational Health & Safety Act (OHSA). This option also provides further information and tips for workers to use if they are feeling uneasy or to help spot hazards in the workplace; it includes a step by step process for ensuring your own safety on the job. If you choose to Take the Quiz, your knowledge on the OHSA will be tested, but in a practical and

applicable way; it provides you with information as to why you were right or wrong with each question as well.

WHMIS:

This section provides a cue-card type learning opportunity with the new WHMIS 2015. It's great to see an up to date feature like this so that workers can learn the newest legislation available to them! There are all ten (10) of the new pictograms in this section, providing a great learning base for workers.

Stretches & Reminders:

Under this section you have 3 options to choose from: Poster, Stretches and Reminders. Under Postures, both sitting and standing postures are provided with tips for an ergonomically-safe and comfortable position. Under Stretches, 4 different stretches are provided; with each stretch there is both a visual guide as well as written directions as to how to properly perform the stretch. This section goes so far as to provide a Reminder option so that you can set a timer within the App to remind you on either an interval basis or a one-off to do a stretch.

Positives:

- ✓ The App is easy to maneuver and use
- ✓ The design of the App is eye-catching and enjoyable
- ✓ The App is free!
- ✓ The information in the App is applicable to all industries
- ✓ WHMIS 2015 is on the App – up to date information!

Areas for Improvement:

- The quiz doesn't let you know that you have completed it – we would recommend an overall score at the completion of the quiz
- Some spelling and grammatical inconsistencies throughout the App; some wording creates confusion

Overall Review:

This App developed by the Career Education Council (CEC) is a great option for new or seasoned workers; while it was developed with students, like Co-Op workers in mind, it provides a great spot for workers to find valuable basic information that applies to their day to day working lives.

This App is available on both Android and iOS smartphones.