



# Distributors Transitioning to WHMIS 2015

## The deadline to become compliant with WHMIS 2015 is approaching.

The last date on which a controlled product with a WHMIS 1988 Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)/label can be sold by a distributor is **August 31, 2018**. For the purpose of this document, the term “distributor” means a supplier who sells a hazardous product that was sold to them. As of **September 1, 2018**, all hazardous products sold or imported for use in a workplace in Canada must be compliant with WHMIS 2015.

The last day on which your upstream manufacturer or importer can provide you with a controlled product with a WHMIS 1988 MSDS/label is **May 31, 2018**. This timeline may leave you with only 3 months (June 1 to August 31, 2018) in which to sell those products to workplaces, or to transition your latest WHMIS 1988 purchases to WHMIS 2015 compliance.

**Avoid the rush and potential errors by starting  
to implement the transition now!**



### What you need to know:

- The requirements for WHMIS 2015 are set out in the *Hazardous Products Act* and the *Hazardous Products Regulations*
- Some of the rules are new – don't rely on your previous knowledge of WHMIS 1988
- Much of the information you need can be found at <http://www.whmis.gc.ca>

### Some good practices to consider in preparing for this transition are:

- Meet with your workplace leadership and suppliers to develop a transition plan with milestones and responsibilities
- Establish and maintain an accurate list of all hazardous products in stock and whether they are WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015 compliant
- Communicate with your upstream suppliers to confirm when upcoming shipments will contain SDSs and labels that are WHMIS 2015 compliant, or to make arrangements to have them provided as soon as they become available
- Plan to sell through WHMIS 1988 stock before September 1, 2018
- Avoid bulk purchases of WHMIS 1988 products to reduce the pressure to sell them through to workplaces before the end of the transition period
- Communicate with your customers to help ensure new labels and SDSs meet their needs for WHMIS 2015
- Safely dispose of hazardous products that cannot be brought into compliance