

WHMIS 2015 Transition

In February 2015, the amended *Hazardous Products Act* (HPA) and the new *Hazardous Product Regulations* (HPR) which incorporate the GHS into WHMIS came into force. "In force" means that suppliers may begin to use and follow the new requirements for labels and safety data sheets (SDSs) for hazardous products sold, distributed, or imported into Canada. The new WHMIS is identified as WHMIS 2015.

To allow time for suppliers, employers and workers to adjust, WHMIS 2015 implementation will take place over a multi-year transition period, where both the original WHMIS (WHMIS 1988) and WHMIS 2015 may be used in the workplace.

At the outset of the transition period, the supplier must fully comply with either the WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015 requirements for a specific controlled or hazardous product. The classification, label and material (M)SDS must comply fully with the specific regulation chosen by the supplier, and not be a combination of the two. Suppliers choosing to use WHMIS 1988 must also follow requirements such as updating MSDSs every three years or when information has changed.

To ensure worker protection, employers must educate and train workers about WHMIS 2015 as new labels and SDSs appear in their workplaces. During the transition period, employers may continue to have WHMIS 1988 labels and MSDSs in the workplace - if so, they must also continue to educate workers about WHMIS 1988. Employers must review and comply with the WHMIS requirements of their occupational health and safety jurisdiction.

	Time Period	Suppliers		Employer*
		Manufacturers and Importers	Distributors	
Phase 1	From Feb 11, 2015 - to - May 31, 2017	WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015	Consult your Federal/Provincial/ Territorial OSH Regulator
Phase 2	From June 1, 2017 - to - May 31, 2018	WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015
Phase 3	From June 1, 2018 - to - Nov. 30, 2018	WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015
Completion	December 1, 2018	WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 2015

* Requirements may vary - consult your local jurisdiction for their WHMIS requirements and transition timing.

WHMIS 2015 Resources

For further information about WHMIS 2015, you may be interested in the following resources:

Canada's National WHMIS Portal, WHMIS.org, provides Canadians with a single point of access to the most current information about WHMIS 2015 from all of the jurisdictions across Canada. The website also contains helpful tools and resources for workers, employers, suppliers and trainers.

Amended Hazardous Products Act (HPA)

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/H-3/>

Hazardous Products Regulations (HPR)

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2015-17/index.html>

WHMIS 2015 for Workers e-course (formerly WHMIS (After GHS) for Workers) (with exam and learner certificate)

This e-course produced by Health Canada and CCOHS, provides worker education about WHMIS 2015. There is an exam and learner certificate. Health Canada has funded 100,000 free individual learner seats. Register for a free seat at:

http://www.ccohs.ca/products/courses/whmis_workers/

WHMIS 2015 Fact Sheets

The following free fact sheets provide an introduction to WHMIS 2015

http://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/whmis_ghs/

WHMIS 2015 – General (OSH Answers Fact Sheet)

Outlines information about WHMIS 2015 requirements based on the *Hazardous Products Regulations*. This Fact Sheet links to several other OSH Answers on WHMIS 2015 (Pictograms, Labels, SDS, etc.)

http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/whmis_ghs/general.html

WHMIS 2015 Pictograms (poster)

<http://www.ccohs.ca/products/posters/whmis2015/>

CCOHS also offers:

WHMIS After GHS e-courses:

These e-courses are free of charge but registration is required so that users can be contacted about changes to the courses. The e-courses are based on the proposed Hazardous Products Regulations. (Note: these will be updated to reflect the final regulations.) There are no exams or learner certificates.

- WHMIS After GHS: An Introduction (30 minute e-course)
http://www.ccohs.ca/products/courses/whmis_ghs_intro/
- WHMIS After GHS: How Suppliers Can Prepare (60 minute e-course)
http://www.ccohs.ca/products/courses/whmis_ghs_suppliers/

WHMIS After GHS: Preparing for Change (Publication)

<http://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/WHMISGHS.html>

GHS Classification and Labelling Webinars

http://www.ccohs.ca/products/webinars/ghs_series/