

>> Fact Sheet: WHMIS 2015 GHS

WHMIS 2015 Implementation

In order to give suppliers, employers and workers adequate time to adjust to the new Globally Harmonized Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System 2015 (also known as WHMIS 2015 GHS), there will be a three year transition period in Canada. Because of this transition period, elements of the old system will likely remain in place until December 01, 2018.

When Do I Need This Training?

December 01, 2018 is when the Globally Harmonized System will be in full effect and all persons who work with or in close proximity to controlled products must have the training completed prior to that date. As outlined in the table below, manufactures, importers and distributors can comply with the new regulations in terms of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) - [formally known as Material Safety Data Sheets or MSDS], labels, classification and terminology prior to December 01, 2018.

Due to these SDS's having aspects of the new GHS system included within them, employees may not understand certain symbols, labels, etc., and therefore, may be unable to take precautions to protect themselves. **During the transition period, if the employer has one or more products in their workplace that has an SDS and label complying with WHMIS 2015, the employer must update WHMIS training to meet the new WHMIS 2015 standard immediately.** If, on the other hand, the employer does not have aspects of the new GHS at their workplace (i.e. products with a SDS, new labels, etc), the new WHMIS 2015/GHS training is **not** required until December 1, 2018, and employers can continue to educate workers on the old WHMIS 1988 standard until then.

Transition Phases to comply with new Hazardous Products Regulations 2015 & old Controlled Products Regulation 1997				
Phases	Timing	Suppliers		Employers
		Manufacturers and Importers	Distributors	
1	Until May 31, 2017	Comply with old or new regulations	Comply with old or new regulations	Consult with Federal, Provincial or Territorial OSH regulator
2	Jun. 01, 2017 - May 31, 2018	Comply with new regulations	Comply with old or new regulations	Comply with old or new regulations
3	Jun. 01, 2018 - Nov. 30, 2018	Comply with new regulations	Comply with new regulations	Comply with old or new regulation
Completion	Dec. 01, 2018	Comply with new regulations	Comply with new regulations	Comply with new regulations

Where Can I Get This Training?

The NLCSA can provide this training (through in-class or online e-learning) to all employees who require it. This course will cover the key elements of both the WHMIS 1988 and WHMIS 2015 systems of classification and labeling of chemicals. Specifically, this course will provide participants with guidance on the process of chemical classification and hazards communication through the use of labels and Material (Safety Data Sheets) or M(SDS). Responsibilities, hazard symbols, and hazard pictograms will also be addressed.

CAUTION: Unlike NLCSA, some companies are offering WHMIS courses that have not yet been updated to reflect the new Globally Harmonized System.

