

## LEHDER Environmental Services

# WHMIS 2015: Canada Adopts the GHS

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### Info Bulletin

February 2015

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### Legislative Update

On February 11, 2015, the Government of Canada promulgated the [Hazardous Products Regulation](#) (HPR) in the [Canada Gazette, Part 2](#).



The new requirements within the HPR and the [Hazardous Products Act](#) (HPA), which was amended in 2014, will bring forth changes to the existing WHMIS (WHMIS 1988) so that the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (WHMIS 2015) will align Canada's system with the United States [Hazard Communication Standard \(2012\)](#) and the [United Nations Purple Book, Revision 5](#).

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### Variances

It must be noted there are some significant variances between the requirements of the U.S. and Canadian systems which include, but are not limited to:

- Bilingual labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS);
- Supplier Identifiers;
- Physical Hazards Not Otherwise Classified/Health Hazards Not Otherwise Classified vs. Hazards Not Otherwise Classified;
- Biohazardous Infectious Materials;
- Updating of SDS and label information;
- Labels on multi-container shipments and kit outer containers.

For more information on the variances, visit Health Canada's resource document at:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/occup-travail/whmis-simdut/ghs-sgh/classification/hazardous-products-produits-dangereux/variances-ecarts-eng.php>

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## Transitional Periods

While WHMIS 2015 has been promulgated as law at the federal level for any federally regulated facility, the provincial and territorial occupational health and safety authorities regulate the employer requirements of WHMIS in workplaces. As each jurisdiction follows independent legislative processes, there may be a lag between the coming-into-force of the HPA and HPR and the timing of amendments to each jurisdiction's legislation.



To provide suppliers, employers and workers time to adjust to the new system, the implementation of WHMIS 2015 will occur in a three-stage transition period that is synchronized nationally across federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions. Federally, an in-force date of date of December 1, 2018 has been determined.

During the initial transition phase, suppliers must comply with the requirements of either WHMIS 1988 (repealed Controlled Products Regulation (CPR)/old HPA) or WHMIS 2015 (HPR/new HPA). The classification, label and (M)SDS must fully comply with the specific law and regulation chosen and not a combination of the two WHMIS systems. A chart outlining the transitional phases is included within Health Canada's *WHMIS Transition* resource available at: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/occup-travail/whmis-simdut/transition/index-eng.php>

On November 3, 2014, the Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) opened the consultation period for proposed amendments to the OSHA and WHMIS Regulation based upon the amended HPA and the now promulgated HPR. The MOL is proposing the new requirements be in force by June 1 of 2015 with a transitional period for full implementation of WHMIS 2015.

## Resources

Health Canada and the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) have provided resources in regards to WHMIS 2015; these are available on the CCOHS website at: <http://www.ccohs.ca/>

Additional information can be found on Health Canada's website at [www.WHMIS.gc.ca](http://www.WHMIS.gc.ca) or on the new, nationally coordinated information portal [www.WHMIS.org](http://www.WHMIS.org)

Links to the regulations, aforementioned sites and specific resource documents are accessible at: [www.lehder.com/whmis2015](http://www.lehder.com/whmis2015)

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## **Upcoming LEHDER Training Courses**

### **Ontario**

***WHMIS 2015: The Globally Harmonized Systems (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals***

**February 26, 2015**

**March 24, 2015**

**April 29, 2015**

**May 27, 2015**

***Train the Trainer – WHMIS 2015***

**February 24-25, 2015**

**May 5-6, 2015**

### **Alberta**

***WHMIS 2015: The Globally Harmonized Systems (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals***

**April 13, 2015**

**[lehder.com/training](http://lehder.com/training)**

## **How Can LEHDER Help?**

Based on our extensive experience with the classification and labelling of hazardous materials, LEHDER can assess your facility to determine how WHMIS 2015 will impact documentation and labelling requirements for your products. Further, we can conduct a training needs assessment in order to prepare and deliver customized WHMIS 2015 training applicable to your product line(s).

### **WHMIS 2015 (GHS) Training**

LEHDER is pleased to provide a NEW eLearning training option for companies to prepare their facility for the WHMIS 2015 implementation. [LEHDER's eLearning Program](#) offers students the ability to complete safety training or certification courses in an online, self-paced environment. To view the WHMIS 2015 courses available, please visit the eLearning Course Directory at: [www.lehder.com/elearning](http://www.lehder.com/elearning)

LEHDER also provides a regularly scheduled classroom WHMIS 2015 training course in Ontario and Alberta. The session outlines the purpose, scope and application of WHMIS 2015, what has transpired to date and how to implement WHMIS 2015 in Canadian businesses. LEHDER recommends Plant Managers, Environmental Health & Safety Managers/Co-ordinators, Warehouse and Distribution Managers/Co-ordinators and R&D/Laboratory Personnel attend WHMIS 2015 training sessions. Customized training solutions are also available for your facility.

Please visit our Training page for our detailed training schedule, course outlines and online registration at: [www.lehder.com/training](http://www.lehder.com/training)

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## **Questions**

For more information in regards to [WHMIS 2015 \(GHS\) and LEHDER's support services](#), please contact:

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### **About LEHDER**

LEHDER Environmental Services is an environmental consulting company focused on providing Excellence in Industrial Air Quality Services. Formed in 1995, LEHDER is now one of the largest Air Quality Management companies in Canada.

All Air Quality aspects – source testing, emission inventories, air dispersion modeling, data interpretation and approval applications – are managed internally without outsourcing and partnering.

Visit our website at [www.lehder.com](http://www.lehder.com)

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