

Health Canada

WHMIS 2015- How Canada is adopting the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for Workplace Chemicals

Transcript

Hello. Welcome to the Health Canada webinar, entitled WHMIS 2015 – How Canada is adopting the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) for Workplace Chemicals.

My name is *Roslynn Miller-Lee* and I am the Manager of the Assessment, Compliance and Enforcement Division in the Workplace Hazardous Materials Bureau at Health Canada. Over the course of the next 45 minutes, I will take you through Health Canada's changes to the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System in order to adopt the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (or GHS) for workplace chemicals in Canada. As many of you know, the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System is commonly referred to as WHMIS and this is the expression that I will use throughout this presentation.

This webinar is targeted towards Canadian audiences or those "selling" in Canada. It is for WHMIS suppliers (or their representatives) who sell or import "hazardous products" for use in Canadian workplaces. This presentation will outline new hazard classification and communication obligations in WHMIS 2015, along with the transition timelines and awareness resources. This presentation will also be of interest to employers who manufacture hazardous products for use in their own workplaces.

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WHMIS was first introduced in 1988 and was modified in February 2015 as a result of the GHS implementation. The original WHMIS is referred to as "WHMIS 1988" while the modified system is referred to as "WHMIS 2015".

"WHMIS 1988" is the term used to describe the original WHMIS program under the old Hazardous Products Act (HPA) and Controlled Products Regulations (CPR) and unamended occupational health and safety legislation and/or regulations in each federal, provincial and territorial jurisdiction.

"WHMIS 2015" is the term used to describe WHMIS incorporating the GHS through amendments to the Hazardous Products Act (HPA) and the publication of the Hazardous Products Regulations (HPR), as well as amendments to relevant occupational health and safety legislation and/or regulations in each federal, provincial and territorial jurisdiction.

There will be four general topics covered in this Webinar.

First, I will give a brief overview of the joint commitment between Canada and the United States under the Regulatory Cooperation Council to align and synchronize implementation of common classification and labelling requirements for workplace hazardous chemicals.

Second, we will look at the WHMIS 2015 requirements with respect to hazard classification, hazard communication and the claim for exemption process for confidential business information (CBI).

Third, I will provide information on the transition from WHMIS 1988 to WHMIS 2015.

And last, I will provide an overview of the communication and guidance materials that Health Canada is currently developing.

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As you know, WHMIS is Canada's national hazard communication standard for workplace chemicals.

In the next few slides, I will be providing a brief overview of the WHMIS requirements and how these requirements are structured, administered and implemented in Canada.

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WHMIS requirements in Canada are implemented through coordinated and interlocking Health Canada and federal, provincial and territorial occupational health and safety (OHS) laws.

During this presentation, I may refer to these laws as statutes and regulations.

Since February 11, 2015, supplier requirements for hazardous workplace materials fall under the Hazardous Products Act or HPA, and the new Hazardous Products Regulations or HPR administered by Health Canada. Note that by supplier I mean sellers and importers. This statute and its associated regulations cover WHMIS hazard classification criteria, and product labelling and safety data sheets. I will say more about the amended Act and the new Hazardous Products Regulations during the course of this presentation.

Employer WHMIS requirements fall under federal, provincial and territorial occupational health and safety laws administered by each of the OHS regulatory agencies for workplaces in their respective jurisdictions. These laws cover workplace labelling, worker accessibility to safety data sheets, and worker education and training programs.

And finally, the Hazardous Materials Information Review Act enables suppliers and employers to protect confidential business information from disclosure on a label or SDS.

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This Webinar focuses on the HPA and its associated regulations. Said another way, we will cover the legislation that Health Canada administers for WHMIS, which requires suppliers of hazardous products to communicate health and safety information as a condition of sale or importation of hazardous products for use in Canadian workplaces.

Federal, provincial and territorial occupational health and safety requirements placed on employers will not be presented in this Webinar. For more information related to employer requirements in specific jurisdictions, please contact your federal, provincial or territorial occupational health and safety regulatory authority.

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On February 11, 2015, the amended HPA and new HPR came into force. Through these legislative and regulatory changes, the GHS has been incorporated into WHMIS. As mentioned earlier, this new WHMIS system is now referred to as "WHMIS 2015" and the original system is referred to as "WHMIS 1988". The Controlled Products Regulations and Ingredient Disclosure List were repealed on February 11, 2015.

The GHS is an internationally consistent approach to classifying chemicals according to their physical, health and environmental hazards and communicating hazard information through labels and safety data sheets.

The implementation of WHMIS 2015 fulfills the Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council Joint Action Plan commitment to align and synchronize implementation of common classification and labelling requirements for workplace hazardous chemicals within the mandate of the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Health Canada without reducing protections for workers.

The implementation of GHS facilitates trade and strengthens worker health and safety through improved hazard communication.

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The key objective for the implementation of WHMIS 2015 is to create a system that, to the extent possible, allows Canadian and US requirements to be met through the use of a single supplier label and safety data sheet or SDS for each hazardous product. However, there will be some regulatory variances between the two countries. Variances have been retained only in order to maintain the current level of protection for workers or due to the requirements of the respective legislative frameworks. Health Canada's work to-date with the US-Occupational Safety and Health Administration or OSHA has already eliminated potential areas of variance and Health Canada will continue to assess the actual on-the-ground impact of any potential variations. Health Canada is also working with the US-OSHA to align the educational and guidance materials that will help stakeholders understand the GHS as it is applied in both countries. And we hope to be able to continue to align, which is the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding and Regulatory Partnership statement between Health Canada and the US Department of Labor.

WHMIS 2015 aligns Canada's workplace chemical hazard communication with that of the US, which has adopted the GHS via the Hazard Communication Standard 1910.1200 (also known as HCS 2012 or HazCom 2012). It is important to note that all Canadian requirements must be met for hazardous products that are sold in or imported into Canada.

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In August 2014, Prime Minister Harper and President Obama announced the Regulatory Cooperation Council Joint Forward Plan, which expands on the first Joint Action Plan released in 2011.

Combining stakeholder input, lessons learned from the implementation of the initial Action Plan, and discussions between agencies on both sides of the border, the RCC's Joint Forward Plan focuses on:

- establishing department-level bi-national processes to strengthen regulatory partnerships;
- building department-to-department commitments and work plans; and
- addressing cross-cutting issues.

Ultimately this approach will institutionalize joint planning and collaboration between Canadian and U.S. regulatory agencies.

As part of the RCC Phase 2 commitments, Health Canada and U.S. OSHA have prepared a Regulatory Partnership Statement (or RPS) and a Work Plan for Workplace Chemicals. In November 2014, Health Canada engaged stakeholders on proposed RPS objectives and areas of consideration for this year's work plan and to solicit feedback. In January 2015, Health Canada and the U.S. OSHA hosted a joint webinar with stakeholders to outline proposed content for the annual work plan and RPS on workplace chemicals. Engagement with stakeholders will continue as Health Canada moves forward in the development of guidance materials and future GHS updates including planning and priority-setting.

Objective of future collaboration is to maintain the ability to meet both US and Canada requirements using a single label and SDS for both countries.

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With the implementation of GHS in Canada, WHMIS continues to be known as WHMIS. WHMIS continues to have the same objective of ensuring the protection of Canadian workers from the adverse effects of hazardous products. It continues to be Canada's hazard classification and communication system for workplace products.

By adopting the GHS, Canada has changed the hazard classification and hazard communication requirements of WHMIS. The new regulations, called the Hazardous Products Regulations has aligned the hazard classification criteria as well as product labelling and safety data sheet content and format requirements with those in the US and other international trading partners, including the European Union.

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Before I cover what is new as a result of the implementation of WHMIS 2015, I wish to point to a key area that has not changed – that being WHMIS exclusions.

While several of these sectors are covered under occupational health and safety regimes in the US and Europe, none have been included in WHMIS 2015 as a result of the amendments to the HPA.

As part of Canada's ongoing alignment with the US, however, eight of the sectors excluded from WHMIS (consumer products, cosmetics, drugs, explosives, food, medical devices, pest control products, and wood and products made from wood) have been moved from section 12 of the HPA to Schedule 1, "Non-Application of Part II", of the Act.

In the future, any of these eight sectors could be brought under the HPA requirements through a full regulatory process, which would include a cost-benefit analysis, as well as consultations and pre-publication in the Canada Gazette.

The four other excluded sectors (nuclear substance, hazardous waste, tobacco or tobacco products and manufactured articles) remain in section 12 of the Act, which means that they cannot be brought under the requirements of the Act without a full parliamentary process to amend the legislation.

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As I said, Health Canada's implementation of the GHS replaces the Controlled Products Regulations with the new Hazardous Products Regulations, which I will refer to as the HPR. To implement the GHS in alignment with the US, WHMIS 2015 implements changes in five general areas:

- New physical and health hazard classification criteria;
- A new approach (or manner) by which the hazard classification criteria are applied to substances and mixtures when making classification decisions;
- New content and format requirements for product labels;
- New content and format requirements for standardized Safety Data Sheets; and finally,
- Changes to exemptions and some additional new requirements.

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In terms of determining the classification of products, Health Canada has maintained the principle that classification should be based on existing data and that no new testing should have to be undertaken for the purposes of classification. Health Canada also requires that the classification of substances be based on the evaluation of all available data, against the criteria for each hazard class. For the classification of mixtures for health hazards, the WHMIS 2015 approach is consistent with the GHS and provides a stepwise approach that considers the different types of data available for the mixture or its ingredients.

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There are three groups of GHS hazard classes, Physical, Health and Environmental. WHMIS 2015 has adopted only two groups, namely, the Physical hazard classes and the Health hazard classes. I will provide more information on these two groups of hazard classes in the next few slides.

The physical and health hazard classes are further subdivided into Categories, which may also be called “types” in some instances, but I will not really touch on these as it is too technical for this webinar.

I would like to note at this point, however, that WHMIS 2015 has not adopted the GHS Environmental hazard classes or the Explosives hazard class.

As noted in the slide, classification criteria for substances and mixtures in the physical hazard classes are based on available test data. For the health hazard classes, on the other hand, the classification of mixtures is based on a specified approach for each hazard class.

As I present further details about labelling and safety data sheets later in this webinar, listeners should bear in mind that while information such as that pertaining to the GHS Environmental Hazard Classes is not part of WHMIS 2015, suppliers are not prohibited from communicating these details. Said another way, additional information could be included on labels and safety data sheets as long as it does not contradict or provide a false impression with respect to information required under WHMIS 2015.

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There are, as you can see, 19 physical hazard classes included in WHMIS 2015.

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Some physical hazard classes - namely, Pyrophoric Gases, Simple Asphyxiants and Combustible Dusts – that are not part of the GHS have been included in WHMIS 2015. These hazard classes are in alignment with the requirements established in the US HazCom 2012. With respect to combustible dusts, I would note that WHMIS 2015 regulates products that are sold in dust form and not products that are in a solid form at the time of sale or importation that might produce dust when used in a workplace.

WHMIS 2015 also includes a physical hazard class called Physical Hazards Not Otherwise Classified, to capture some products that were previously captured by the Controlled Products Regulations, as well as new hazards. This hazard class covers, for example, products that undergo vigorous polymerization.

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As noted on the slide, WHMIS 2015 has included 12 health hazard classes. I would like to note that there are two health hazard classes listed that are new to WHMIS – namely, Specific Target Organ Toxicity – Single Exposure and Aspiration Hazard.

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WHMIS 2015 also introduces a health hazard class called Health Hazards Not Otherwise Classified. This primarily addresses new health hazards, which would otherwise not be covered by other health hazard classes.

WHMIS 2015 retains a separate hazard class for Biohazardous Infectious Materials. The symbol is the same as the WHMIS 1988 symbol, which is the biohazard symbol set in a round black border.

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There are some hazards addressed under WHMIS 1988 that are not addressed by the GHS. Therefore, in order to maintain the current level of protection to the workers, WHMIS 2015 contains a list of substances that are deemed to be classified, at a minimum, in the particular hazard class and category identified. These substances, must also be evaluated by the supplier to determine if any other hazard classes apply. This list is similar to the substance-specific standards that US OSHA uses to regulate substances of particular concern.

Substances may be added to or deleted from the list by Health Canada following stakeholder consultation with stakeholders and the normal regulatory updating process.

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Turning now to hazard communication, I will outline the WHMIS 2015 requirements for product labels and safety data sheets, which are the primary means of communicating health and safety information of hazardous products to workers. You may have noticed that I used the term safety data sheet or SDS rather than the term material safety data sheet. Safety data sheets or SDSs play the same role in hazard communication as material safety data sheets or MSDSs. The general approach in WHMIS 1988, of communicating the hazards of a product on a label and an SDS through pictograms and statements that convey messages about hazards, precautions and first aid measures has been retained.

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For labels, WHMIS 2015 requires the supplier to provide the product identifier and supplier identifier, where the supplier identifier is the name, address and telephone number for the Canadian manufacturer or importer.

For each hazard class adopted from the GHS in which the hazardous product is classified, the corresponding pictogram, signal word, hazard statement and precautionary statements (which include first-aid) set out in Section 3 of Annex 3 of the 5th revised edition of the GHS are required to appear on the label. For all other hazard classes in which the hazardous product is classified, the label elements as set out in Schedule 5 of the HPR are required.

Supplemental label elements are required to be disclosed on the label based on the classification of the product. There are two situations where supplemental information is required by WHMIS 2015:

- First, if on contact with water, the product releases a gaseous substance that meets the classification criteria for Acute Toxicity, the statement "In contact with water, releases gases which are fatal/toxic/harmful if inhaled" is required.
- Second, if a mixture contains ingredients of unknown Acute Toxicity, the statement "x % of the mixture consists of an ingredient or ingredients of unknown acute toxicity" is required. The route of exposure should be included in the statement. For example, 2% of a mixture consists of ingredient or ingredients of unknown acute oral toxicity.

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Here is a hypothetical example of what a supplier label could look like under the HPR requirements. This is an example of a label of a substance or mixture that is classified in Acute Toxicity, Oral-Category 1 or 2 and Skin Corrosion/Irritation-Category 2. Please note that this example is for informational purpose only and is not meant to represent the label that a supplier must create for these hazards.

The elements specified on this label are product identifier, pictograms, signal word, hazard statements, precautionary statements and Canadian supplier identifier.

The hazard pictogram or pictograms, signal word, and hazard statement or statements are required to be grouped together on the label.

Once the hazard classification of the product is established by the supplier, they can look up the appropriate label element information in Section 3 of Annex 3 of the 5th revised edition of the GHS and Schedule 5 of the HPR.

The label must be in English and French. Spanish or any other language is not prohibited.

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There are some changes to the label layout in WHMIS 2015. Notably, the distinctive hatched border around the label content and statement to the effect that an SDS is available is no longer required in WHMIS 2015.

The red border on the pictograms will help draw attention to the most crucial hazard communication elements.

So, comparing the WHMIS 1988 label requirements to those of the WHMIS 2015, you can see that many elements are similar.

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As you saw in the earlier slide in the example of a supplier label and in keeping with the WHMIS 1988 practice, the supplier identifier must be that of a Canadian manufacturer or importer. The HPR allows, however, for the name of the manufacturer or importer to be replaced with the name of the distributor. In addition, in the specific case of an imported product used solely in the workplace of the importer, the importer may keep the name of the foreign supplier instead of replacing it with their own identity.

The same supplier identifier is required on the supplier label and SDS for the hazardous product.

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This table shows the GHS pictograms and their associated hazards, as well as the WHMIS Biohazardous infectious materials symbol. With the three exceptions, which are noted with an asterisk, all of these pictograms and associated hazard classes have been adopted in WHMIS 2015.

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Under WHMIS 2015, labels must be accurate at the time of sale or import of a hazardous product, for each sale or import. Suppliers have 180 days to update a supplier label from the date new information becomes available, as long as the new information and date upon which it became available are provided in writing to the purchaser of the product at the time of sale, or obtained or prepared in a document at the time of importation.

This requirement strikes a balance between the suppliers' need for a reasonable amount of time to update labels and the employers' requirement to have the most accurate information possible in order to appropriately train employees.

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As illustrated in the table, WHMIS 2015 has adopted the same SDS sections as the GHS.

To comply with WHMIS 2015, all 16 section headings must appear in the SDS, in the order in which they are presented, to ensure that the required information appears in the same section of the SDS, regardless of the supplier. Inclusion of information in sections 12 through 15 is optional due to two reasons: one, because Health Canada does not regulate the information provided in these sections, and two, to align with the US OSHA HCS 2012.

Under WHMIS 2015, SDSs must be current and accurate at the time of each sale or importation. The requirement to review and revise SDSs every three years in the absence of new information has been repealed as it is duplicative of the requirement that an SDS be accurate at the time of sale or import.

Suppliers have 90 days to update an SDS from the date new information becomes available, as long as the new information and date upon which it became available are provided in writing to the purchaser of the product at the time of sale, or obtained or prepared in a document at the time of importation.

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For a hazardous product that is a substance, WHMIS 2015 requires the disclosure of its chemical name, which is a scientific designation of the substance, common name, synonyms, chemicals abstract service registry number and any unique identifiers of the substance on the SDS. The substance itself may be classified for a physical hazard or a health hazard.

Furthermore, if there are any impurities, stabilizing solvents and stabilizing additives that are known to the supplier, that individually are classified in any category or subcategory of a health hazard class and that contribute to the classification of the substance then they must also be disclosed on the SDS.

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Under WHMIS 1988, there is a requirement to disclose ingredients in mixtures that present either physical hazard or health hazard or both hazards.

With the implementation of GHS in WHMIS, only the ingredients present in a hazardous product that present a health hazard are required to be disclosed in section 3 of the SDS. Ingredients which present a physical hazard, but not a health hazard, are not required to be disclosed on the SDS.

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Suppliers are not required to disclose on the SDS those ingredients for which the toxicological properties are not known.

As noted on the slide as well as mentioned earlier, the Ingredient Disclosure List has been repealed.

Removing these requirements is unlikely to have an impact on worker protection.

In the next few slides, I will focus on some of the exemptions in WHMIS 2015.

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WHMIS 2015 has retained the supplier exemptions for complex mixtures and labelling of the outer container.

The sale or importation of a hazardous product that is a complex mixture is exempt from the requirement to disclose on the SDS the chemical name and concentration of any ingredient of the complex mixture if the commonly known generic name of the complex mixture is disclosed on the SDS. It is important to note that the requirements with respect to classification or disclosure of the hazards of the complex mixture must still be met.

An outer container of a hazardous product packaged in multiple containers is not required to be labelled according to WHMIS 2015 requirements if the label on the inner container is visible and legible through the outer container under normal conditions of storage and handling, as is often the case for plastic shrink-wrapped pallets of several containers, or when the outer container has a label compliant with the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations.

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WHMIS 2015 has modified the exemptions for bulk shipments and for small volume containers and has added new exemptions for small containers and kits.

Under WHMIS 1988, there is an exemption from the labelling requirements for bulk shipments that only applies to products in bulk that are shipped to the purchaser. This exemption has been extended to include hazardous products that are sold without packaging of any sort, regardless of whether they are shipped or picked up at the supplier's location. This exemption applies to both small and large products that are not packaged, but does not apply to a pallet of goods that is shrink-wrapped since the shrink-wrap is packaging that could be labelled. Examples of products without packaging would be oil in a tanker car, gas in a pipeline and others.

For small volume containers, hazardous products packaged in a container or containers with a capacity of less than or equal to 100 ml are exempted only from the requirement to bear precautionary statements or hazard statements on the label. However, all applicable precautionary statements and hazard statements are required to be provided in section 2 of the SDS.

Regarding small capacity containers, hazardous products packaged in a container with a capacity of 3 ml or less are required to have a label that remains durable and legible while in transport and storage, but that could be removed under normal conditions of use, that is, when the label interferes with the use of the product. This is an exemption from the requirement that the label remain durable during normal conditions of use.

And finally, an outer container that contains two or more different hazardous products, such as a kit, is permitted to be labelled with fewer elements. There is an exemption, whereby the signal words, hazard statements and precautionary statements relating to prevention, disposal and response are not required to be included on the outer container label of a kit, as long as a special statement referring the user to the individual product labels is used.

More guidance is being developed and will be available on our website.

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There are no substantial changes to the claim for exemption process for confidential business information as a result of the implementation of WHMIS 2015. Only administrative changes were made to the Hazardous Materials Information Review Act or HMIRA.

For a certain time period, suppliers and employers making claims for exemption under the HMIRA may file claims with (M)SDSs or SDSs and labels complying with either WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015. The claimant will have to indicate this information on the application form.

However,

- as of June 1, 2016, Health Canada will only accept supplier claims under the HMIRA with WHMIS 2015 SDSs; and
- as of December 2017, Health Canada will only accept employer claims with WHMIS 2015 SDSs and labels.

For more information related to the claims for exemption process for CBI, please consult Health Canada's WHMIS.gc.ca website.

In my next few slides I will be providing you with information on transition to WHMIS 2015.

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WHMIS 2015 is the result of a collaborative effort between the federal, provincial and territorial occupational health and safety agencies as well as the effective participation of representatives from supplier, employer and worker organizations. Changes to the federal legislative framework requires the provinces and territories to make changes to their own legislation. This coordinated transition approach will help facilitate continued national consistency in hazard classification and communications in Canada.

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So, what is the purpose of transition?

Transition allows time for stakeholders to adjust to the new system, that is, to comply with the WHMIS 2015 requirements. It also allows time for stakeholders to move WHMIS 1988 labels and MSDSs out of the supply chain and workplaces in a predictable and consistent manner across Canada.

The implementation of WHMIS 2015 is taking place gradually over a three-stage transition period, which began with the coming into force of the amended HPA and new HPR on February 11, 2015.

Health Canada developed the approach for transition to WHMIS 2015 based on consultation with stakeholders and WHMIS partners. From these consultations, we heard that there was a need to achieve a balance between allowing enough time for manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers for transition to the new system and the cost of training workers on both the old system and the new system during transition.

In my next slide, I will walk you through the diagram on transition between WHMIS 1988 and WHMIS 2015.

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During the first phase, which started with the coming-into-force of WHMIS 2015 on February 11, 2015, suppliers are able to comply with either the old HPA and CPR, that is, WHMIS 1988, or the new requirements of the HPA and HPR, that is, WHMIS 2015. The classification, label and MSDS or SDS must be fully compliant with the specific regulation chosen, and not a combination of the two. The first phase of transition will end on May 31, 2017, at which point the transition for manufacturers and importers of hazardous products will be complete (in other words after this point manufacturers and importers will be required to only sell or import hazardous products with labels and SDSs that are compliant with WHMIS 2015).

During the second phase, which starts on June 1, 2017 and ends on May 31, 2018, distributors and suppliers importing for their own use will be able to continue to sell or import hazardous products with labels and MSDSs or SDSs based on either WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015 requirements.

Starting June 1, 2018 manufacturers, importers, distributors and suppliers importing for their own use will be required to sell or import only those hazardous products that are compliant with WHMIS 2015. On May 31, 2018, the transition to WHMIS 2015 is complete for all suppliers.

All enquiries related to employer requirements and transition timelines in specific jurisdictions should be directed to the Federal, Provincial and Territorial OHS regulators – you can reach these regulators through the national WHMIS portal-WHMIS.org.

I would like to note that an MSDS or SDS and label that is compliant with the US HazCom 2012 may not be sufficient for compliance in Canada. Suppliers must be compliant with the Canadian requirements.

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We are often asked, what are the compliance and enforcement activities that Health Canada will be undertaking during the transition phases?

Communication and education are key and will be the standard approach during the transition period. In partnership with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), a variety of educational resources have been developed including e-learning courses and fact sheets for suppliers, employers and workers- all of these are available through the WHMIS.org portal.

Health Canada will continue taking a reactive approach to instances of non-compliance based on complaints, referrals and the outcome of a CBI claim for exemption, and will seek voluntary compliance in most cases. However, during transition, when both WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015 would be compliant, enforcement actions will be taken under WHMIS 2015. Said another way, in the case of a non-compliance with WHMIS 1988, where voluntary compliance is not achieved, the supplier or employer will be required to comply with WHMIS 2015.

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Before, I move on I would like to summarize the key messages:

- With the implementation of WHMIS 2015, the use of single label and SDS for each hazardous product in the US and Canada is allowed. However, all Canadian requirements for labels and safety data sheets must be met for a hazardous product that is sold in or imported into Canada. It is not sufficient for Canadian suppliers and importers to comply with only the US HCS 2012.
- Transition to WHMIS 2015 began on February 11, 2015. Manufacturers and importers have until May 31, 2017 while the distributors have until May 31, 2018 to make all SDS and labels comply with WHMIS 2015. During transition, manufacturers, importers and distributors could comply with either WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015 but not a combination of both.

In my next few slides, I will close the webinar with some information about the WHMIS 2015 guidance and additional considerations, including information on further work that Health Canada will be undertaking.

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As we continue to move forward, the priority for Health Canada is to provide useful, broadly-accessible information and guidance on WHMIS 2015 requirements. As always, Health Canada's approach to guidance is founded on effective communication with WHMIS stakeholders. This includes:

- Enhancing awareness and promoting compliance with the new regulatory requirements (WHMIS 2015);
- Raising awareness of stakeholder roles and responsibilities;
- Identifying key milestones during transition; and
- Bringing stakeholders together to preserve national consistency.

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There are various resources that are available to you to learn about WHMIS 2015.

Health Canada has re-launched the WHMIS.gc.ca website which explains WHMIS 2015 and the transition requirements while maintaining guidance on WHMIS 1988.

Additional information about the implementation of the WHMIS 2015 across Canada can be found on WHMIS.org and SIMDUT.org portals. The WHMIS.org site is maintained through the collaboration of Health Canada, CCOHS and all the federal, provincial and territorial occupational health and safety regulatory jurisdictions across Canada.

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, a federal government agency governed by representatives from workers, government and employers, in partnership with Health Canada has released e-courses and WHMIS 2015 fact sheets that introduce components of WHMIS as they appear with the implementation of the GHS through the CCOHS website. CCOHS supports understanding of WHMIS for all stakeholders, provides authoritative WHMIS and broader occupational-related information, including chemical-specific information and also provides educational and training products on WHMIS.

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Health Canada is developing a technical guidance document for WHMIS suppliers on the WHMIS 2015 requirements. This technical guidance document will provide explanations of the HPR requirements and the amended HPA, including classification, labels, SDSs and exemptions.

It will also cover the elements of WHMIS 2015 that vary from US HazCom 2012 or the GHS and the compliance flexibilities during the transition period from WHMIS 1988 to WHMIS 2015. In addition, the guidance will explain the mechanism to protect confidential business information, which is provided by the HMIRA and its regulations.

This technical guidance document will be updated on a cyclical basis which will allow the incorporation of future updates to WHMIS 2015.

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Moving forward, Health Canada will be developing awareness and guidance documents, public awareness and educational programs in cooperation with our partners, both in Canada and the US, and also developing compliance promotion materials and updating information on the WHMIS website.

For more information on WHMS 2015, you can visit the WHMIS.org, WHMIS.gc.ca or www.ccohs.ca website. You can also email us at whmis_simdut@hc-sc.gc.ca or call us at the toll-free number 1-855-407-2665.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to provide you with information on WHMIS 2015 – How Canada is adopting the Globally Harmonized System for Workplace Chemicals.

I would like to thank the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety for its support in the creation of this webinar.

Finally, should you have any additional questions about what you have heard during this presentation, you may reach us at the Workplace Hazardous Materials Directorate at www.hc-sc.gc.ca or by using the contact information on this slide.

Thank you and have a nice day.