From Workplace Hazardous Material Information System to Globally Harmonized System (WHMIS 2015)

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Purpose of the presentation

- Provide an overview of the changes to the WHMIS
- Provide timeline of implementation of GHS (WHMIS 2015)
- Identify where you can get more information
Transitioning from WHMIS1988 to WHMIS 2015 (GHS)

- Prior to 1988 no requirement for employers or suppliers to provide information to workers

Key elements of WHMIS

- Classification
- Labelling
- Material Safety Data Sheets
- Worker education and training
Key elements of WHMIS

- Keep you safe in the workplace.
- Cautionary labels
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- Worker education program
- Covers all products set out in the Hazardous Products Act and Hazardous Products Regulations.
- Exceptions: explosive products, nuclear products, consumer products, tobacco products etc...
What is GHS? (WHMIS 2015)

- United Nations led initiative
- The GHS is a common, internationally consistent approach to:
  - Classify chemicals according to their hazards, and
  - Communicate hazard information through labels and safety data sheets.
  - Simplification of labels
- It is designed to replace the various classification and labelling standards used in different countries.
- Canada has committed to implement GHS within the context of WHMIS.
Implementing the GHS in Canada requires legislative and regulatory changes. The federal department responsible for WHMIS is Health Canada.

Federal, provincial and territorial occupational health and safety agencies are also in the process of amending their own legislative and regulatory frameworks.

Royal Assent of the legislative amendments to the *Hazardous Products Act* was received on June 19, 2014.

Proposed *Hazardous Product Regulations* were published in *Canada Gazette*, Part I on August 9, 2014, followed by a public comments period.
On February 11, 2015, the Government of Canada published in the Canada Gazette, Part II the Hazardous Products Regulations (HPR), which, in addition to the amendments made to the Hazardous Products Act under the modified the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) 1988 to incorporate the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) for workplace chemicals. This modified WHMIS is referred to as WHMIS 2015.

The Controlled Products Regulations (CPR) and the Ingredient Disclosure List have been repealed.
Implementation

- June 2015 forward Training of employees
- June 2015- June 2017 introduction of new MSDS by manufacturers and into work places,
- June 2017- June 2018 removal of old MSDS by manufacturers/suppliers and work places
- December 2018 full implementation
Changes are occurring to WHMIS as a result of Canada’s commitments to GHS

- Changes are occurring to WHMIS as a result of Canada’s commitments to:
  
  - Implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), as published by the United Nations, without loss of current protections, and

  - Harmonize the timelines and WHMIS requirements to the fullest extent possible with the Hazard Communication Standard 2012 as released by the U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration (US OSHA).
Changes

- New symbols are clearer and more precise, and are aligned with other GHS countries

- **Current WHMIS Symbol**
  - Dangerously reactive material

- **Future WHMIS Pictograms**
  - Fire Hazard
  - Explosion Hazard
  - Toxic Gas Hazard
Labels

Pre-GHS Labels
(unique requirements in Canada and the U.S.)

WHMIS Label

USOSHA Label

GHS Label
(harmonized in Canada and the U.S.)
CCOHS, Health Canada have released several educational products related to the implementation of the GHS

- Webinar explaining regulatory proposal (March 2014)
- Updated e-course: WHMIS After GHS Introduction (June 2014)
- Updated e-course: WHMIS After GHS How Suppliers Can Prepare (June 2014)
- Fact Sheets reflecting the regulatory proposal (June 2014)
- Podcast on WHMIS 2015 (September 2015)
Where to get further information.

- PSAC – www.psacunion.ca
- PSAC NCR- www.psac-ncr.com

- Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS)
  - ✔ Website: [http://www.ccohs.ca](http://www.ccohs.ca) or [www.WHMIS.org](http://www.WHMIS.org)
  - ✔ Phone: 1-800-668-4284

- Workplace Hazardous Material Bureau, Health Canada
  - ✔ Website: [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca) or [www.WHMIS.gc.ca](http://www.WHMIS.gc.ca)
  - ✔ Email: whmis simdut@hc-sc.gc.ca