

Technical Brief

WHMIS 2015

In February of 2015, the Hazardous Products Regulations (HPR) were published in Canada Gazette II. These regulations replace the Controlled Products Regulations and they modify the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) to bring it into alignment with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). The fundamentals of the original regulation are still in place, including the duty of chemical manufacturers and importers to evaluate the chemicals they produce and provide hazard information to employers and their employees by way of hazard labels and safety data sheets. There are several differences that employers and employees should note. Following is a summary of the major changes:

- **Hazard classification:** Manufacturers and importers must classify their products based on specific criteria for health and physical hazards. The hazard classes are subdivided differently than before, and some new hazard classes have been added. As before, one product may fall into multiple classes.
- **Labels:** Manufacturers and importers will be required to provide a label that includes a signal word, pictogram(s), hazard statement(s) and precautionary statements for all applicable hazard classes. The hatched border will no longer be used. Note that the pictograms are different than the previous WHMIS pictograms. Some examples of the new pictograms are listed below:



- **Safety Data Sheets (SDS):** These will now have a specified 16-section format with specified headings and content. Note that there is no longer a requirement to update SDSs every 3 years.

The transition period started immediately upon publication of the new rule. During the transition period, products may comply with either the old or new WHMIS criteria. Note that the label and SDS must both comply with the same version of WHMIS. Below are some important cut-off dates for the transition to WHMIS 2015:

Date	Requirement
06/01/2017	As of this date, workplace products shipped from manufacturers and importers must have WHMIS 2015 compliant labels and safety data sheets.
06/01/2018	Distributors have an additional year to sell through any products labeled under the old system. On or after this date, distributors must also have WHMIS 2015 labeling and SDS's for their shipped products.
12/01/2018	By this date, employers should complete the education and training of employees on WHMIS 2015 and should have updated their SDS collection to WHMIS 2015 compliant SDSs.

CRC has your Solution

CRC is reviewing our workplace products to transition them to compliance with this new regulation. New safety data sheets will be created starting in 2016 for all products and will be posted on our website as they become available. Visit our website at crc-canada.ca for additional product information.

For more information, contact CRC Technical Services at 800-268-7138.