

WHMIS Administration

WHMIS is implemented through coordinated and interlocking federal, provincial and territorial legislation. The *Hazardous Products Act (HPA)* and the *Controlled Products Regulations (CPR)*, require Canadian suppliers (including importers and distributors) to provide supplier labels and material safety data sheets (MSDSs) for controlled products that are sold or imported for use in Canadian workplaces.

The *HPA/CPR* is administered by Health Canada in partnership with provincial and territorial agencies responsible for occupational health and safety (OHS), as well as with Human Resources Development Canada Labour Program for federally regulated workplaces. The provincial / territorial WHMIS regulatory authority in Nova Scotia is the Department of Environment and Labour, Occupational Health and Safety Division.

The national WHMIS Web site provides a consistent means of disseminating all national policies/information related to this program in Canada. The national site is developed and maintained by Health Canada's WHMIS Division, on behalf of the Government of Canada, in consultation with and on behalf of all federal, provincial and territorial government WHMIS regulatory authorities.

Each of the thirteen provincial, territorial and federal agencies responsible for occupational safety and health has established employer WHMIS requirements within their respective jurisdiction. These requirements place an onus on employers to ensure that controlled products used, stored, handled or disposed of in the workplace are properly labelled, MSDSs are made available to workers, and workers receive education and training to ensure the safe storage, handling and use of controlled products in the workplace. The Department of Environment and Labour, Occupational Health and Safety Division administers WHMIS employer requirements under the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Regulations, under the authority of the *OH&S Act*, RSN, 1989, c.320.