



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING WHMIS TRAINING

Regulation 88-221, the *Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System Regulation*, under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* requires that workplaces have a program in place to address safety issues when working with controlled substances. This is commonly called a WHMIS program. This regulation has been in effect since 1988 and similar legislation is found throughout Canada. The regulation requires that employees who work with controlled substances be trained in handling those substances and informed of the possible risks involved. The regulation also requires that controlled substances be properly labeled and that workplaces maintain the Material Safety Data Sheets provided by the supplier of the controlled substance.

WHMIS training must meet the minimum requirements of the regulation; this training may be provided by any qualified person or agency. If you are contacted by an agency or person offering to provide this training you should know that you have options available and you should explore those options to ensure that you find the best and most cost-effective training for your workplace.

You should also note that the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission never calls workplaces and informs them that training is needed. If a workplace is required to provide training a WHSCC officer, with official identification, will visit the workplace and address the issues in person.

If you have any questions about WHMIS training or the WHMIS program in general, please review the regulation at <http://www.gnb.ca/0062/regs/88-221.htm> or contact the WHSCC.