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WHMIS 2015 UPDATE

The Workers Compensation Board, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, introduced new *Occupational Health and Safety Act Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System Regulations*, more commonly known as the WHMIS regulations.

The new WHMIS regulations bring Prince Edward Island in line with the 2015 amendments to the federal *Hazardous Products Act* and *Hazardous Products Regulations*. The federal amendments, known as WHMIS 2015, reflect the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

The new WHMIS regulations for Prince Edward Island came into force on July 29, 2017

The new regulations are available on the Workers Compensation Board website at:

www.wcb.pe.ca/Workplace/OHSActAndRegulations

Employers should ensure that their workers' training is up to date. Employers should also ensure that their safety data sheets are up to date and readily available as required by the WHMIS regulations. The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) website has some low cost training available and aixsafety.com has some free WHMIS 2015 training available:

www.ccohs.ca/products/courses/course_listing.html

<http://aixsafety.com/>

More information on WHMIS can be found at:

whmis.org

www.ccohs.ca/topics/legislation/WHMIS/

www.wcb.pe.ca/Workplace/Publications

NEW WCAT MEMBERS APPOINTED

The Workers Compensation Appeal Tribunal (WCAT) has several new members. Nine new vice-chairs, five new employer representatives, and five new worker representatives were appointed on July 20, 2017. The new members will begin sitting as panel members for hearings this fall.

WCAT is established under section 56 of the *Workers Compensation Act*. WCAT panels consist of a chair or vice-chair, a worker representative and an employer representative. These three person panels can hear appeals from Internal Reconsideration decisions of the Workers Compensation Board. An appeal can be filed by a worker, a worker's dependents or an employer. A party with a direct interest in a matter can make submissions and appear before the panel hearing the matter. Appeals can deal with issues related to workers' claims or employers' assessments.

If you have questions about or wish to discuss the internal reconsideration or WCAT process, feel free to contact the OEA office:

902-620-3519 or **902-368-6132**