



HPSA Sharps Collection Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the laws and when did they come into effect?

Ontario Regulation 298/12 *"Collection of Pharmaceuticals and Sharps - Responsibility of Producers"* took effect Oct. 2nd, 2012 under the Ontario Environmental Protection Act.

On June 10, 2014 Prince Edward Island approved the *Environmental Protection Act* Materials Stewardship and Recycling Regulations, pursuant to Section 25 of the Prince Edward Island Environmental Protection Act.

These regulations require producers of sharps to be responsible for the end-of-life management of their used (post-consumer) products.

Is my product considered a sharp?

Under these regulations a sharp is defined as: *"... a needle, safety engineered needle, lancet or other similar instrument that is designed to puncture the skin of individuals or companion animals for medical purposes and that is sold to consumers, whether it is sold by the producer of the sharps or another person, and includes anything affixed to the sharp, including a syringe."*

Am I a producer?

You are a producer if:

- i) your sharps products are sold to consumers in Ontario or Prince Edward Island under a brand name that the manufacturer owns, licenses or has rights to;
- ii) you are the owner of or licensee of the brand or rights holder under which the sharps products are sold to consumers in Ontario or Prince Edward Island;
- iii) you are the importer of the sharps products into Ontario or Prince Edward Island.

What does the law require me to do?

Producers must provide consumers with a safe convenient way to return their used sharps which includes providing approved sharps containers and providing a network of collection locations across each regulated province. Once returned to a pharmacy, the used sharps must be transported and disposed in a safe, secure and compliant manner. The regulations also define education, promotion and reporting requirements that a producer must comply with.

How do I comply? What is the HPSA Sharps Collection Program?

As a producer you can establish your own collection network, dispose of your sharps, complete the promotion and education requirements for consumers and submit your own reports or you can join HPSA and comply through HPSA Stewardship Programs. These programs include the Ontario Sharps Collection Program (OSCP) and the Island Sharps Collection Program (ISCP).

The OSCP and ISCP provide producers with a collective means for managing the requirements of the regulations, including an existing collection network, sharps containers, promotion, education, reporting and proper disposal of used sharps. The OSCP and ISCP are administered by the Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA), a not-for-profit organization funded by producers of sharps devices.