

METROBUS GETS PREPARED FOR HEALTH CANADA'S GHS ALIGNMENT

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Maintenance Planning Supervisor
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- Public transit system for St. John's, Canada
- Operates a fleet of buses that run 21 hours a day
- Serves over 3 million riders per year

Metrobus is the Public Transit system for St. John's (pop. 125,000), the capital city of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada — as well as the neighboring city of Mt. Pearl. It serves approximately three million riders each year, and offers special services and programs for the area's senior citizens and for persons using mobility devices. Its fleet of buses operates 21 hours a day, seven days a week.

Metrobus faces the unique challenges of safely maintaining chemicals needed to run a large transportation fleet, while also ensuring rider and employee safety and meeting all requirements stemming from Health Canada's alignment with GHS. Since 2013, Metrobus has depended on the MSDSonline HQ Account for help with all of these things.

Danny Oliver is Maintenance Planning Supervisor for Metrobus, and heads up environmental health and safety.

"We originally signed up with *VelocityEHS* because we thought the HQ Account looked like a great product for safety data sheet management," explains Mr. Oliver. "At the time, a lot of people felt like the GHS transition was on the backburner for Health Canada — that it was farther away than it ended up being. But as we all know, it arrived quickly and brought big changes. We were very pleased at how the [MSDSonline HQ Account] service positioned us for GHS. It is definitely making our life easier."

In addition to being prepared for the staggered adoption of GHS under WHMIS 2015 (culminating in complete Canadian adoption by Dec. 1, 2018), Mr. Oliver also reports that the MSDSonline HQ Account has had a positive impact on daily workflow at Metrobus.

"We have 15 full-time mechanics on staff — as well as body men, utility workers,

wash crew workers, and an electrician — and we deal with a variety of chemicals in our garage," says Mr. Oliver. "We have everything from degreasers to hydraulic fluids for bus ramps, to various cleaners for the exteriors and interiors of the buses. All in all, we have around 200 chemicals that need safety data sheets. The system saves us a ton of time when it comes to maintaining that [SDS] library. Bringing in a new product is a snap. And if we have issues with a supplier in terms of providing a safety data sheet, we can usually go into the HQ Account system and find it there."

Mr. Oliver says that the HQ Account has proved so effective for Metrobus that other municipal entities have started coming to see what they are doing right.

"I've spoken with the city about their own fleet service — dump trucks, garbage trucks, loaders, pickups, tractors, and so on — and how they might have the



same success with the MSDSonline HQ Account that we had,” says Mr. Oliver. “City representatives came to our facility and I showed them how it works. They were very impressed. They see how easy it is for the employees to be trained on it, and for them to go into the vast SDS library on their own. Any time of day or night, employees can access it. The process is simple. Now, the city is interested in getting the MSDSonline HQ Account for themselves.”

Mr. Oliver concludes by emphasizing what he sees as the two largest benefits: “I can’t say enough good things about this product in terms of saving us time and keeping everything straight for GHS. Those used to be paramount concerns. Now we don’t have to worry. Getting the right SDS and getting employees up to speed are both very fast. We’re ready for whatever changes come next.”



FINDING THE RIGHT SOLUTION FOR COMMUNITIES OF ALL SIZES

At VelocityEHS, we know the unique challenges faced by municipal, state/province, and federal entities that provide vital services to large populations. Whether working to comply with Health Canada’s WHMIS or OSHA’s HazCom Standard, states, agencies, and municipal services must contend with a variety of complex requirements and scenarios, as well as restrictions that often exceed those faced by companies in the private sector. For example, transit services and similar entities can find their budgets varying wildly based on changing political winds. They can face funding cuts under which they’re expected to “do more with less,” while at the same time, the public often holds them to a *higher* standard than their counterparts in the private sector. They are impacted by city, state/province, and federal budget concerns that may have *nothing to do* with their own performance. Faced with all this, the last thing they need are HazCom compliance challenges.

VelocityEHS is a powerful ally that knows the difficulties that public services face, and knows how to bring real-world solutions to the table. Find out why thousands of safety professionals in the U.S. and Canada trust us to help them surmount these obstacles, and provide workplace safety, education, and compliance solutions during periods of unprecedented transition and change.

Benefits of the HQ Account

Millions of MSDSs at Your Fingertips

24/7 access to the industry’s leading database of safety data sheets ensures your company’s library is up-to-date and in compliance.

Simplify Compliance

Easy-to-use tools help you meet hazard communication requirements (OSHA / WHMIS / GHS), including hazard determination, right-to-know access, labeling, safe chemical handling, PPE, and more.

Improve Chemical Management

Robust chemical management tools provide greater container-level control over the location, status and risk associated with the chemicals you use. Our free mobile Chemical Inventory Scanner app lets you scan barcode/QR code labels for in-the-field container management.

Mobile Access

Our online accounts are mobile optimized, and our free eBinder mobile app makes it possible to access SDSs and chemical inventory information offline, when internet connectivity is limited. With these mobile capabilities, critical chemical safety information is always at your fingertips.

Regulatory Compliant

Multiple back-up options mean your system meets OSHA, WHMIS and other regulatory requirements for electronic safety data sheet /chemical management.

Quick ROI & Low Cost of Ownership

The HQ Account pays for itself by eliminating time-consuming, manual administrative tasks. Plus, there’s no software to install or maintain, and you get immediate access to new features.

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