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British Columbia's Recycling Program Puts the Onus on All Industry

On December 8th, 2008 the British Columbia government approved legislation to mandate recycling and stewardship plans for all electrical products by July of 2010 and all appliances by July of 2012. This is in support of the province's goal to divert all waste from landfills and incinerators by 2020.

In this scheduled phase of the regulation, plumbing and drinking water treatment products that are powered by electricity or battery are included.

The responsibility falls to the producer in the province.

Who is the Producer?

- The definition in the regulation is cascading with the intent to capture the first-seller of the product in the province.
- In practice, the producer is typically the product manufacturer, brand-owner, seller, or distributor. The producer could also be an importer, broker or retailer who sells the product directly to a consumer (e.g., internet sales).

The regulation was designed to be result-based and very flexible for producers to either submit a plan of their own, OR comply with the province's prescribed program.

The options set out the duty of the producer:

- **Must have a compliant and ministry-approved plan (under Part 2 of the Regulation);**
- OR
- **Comply with a prescriptive Province-defined program (under Part 3 of the Regulation).**

CIPH is working with like-minded industry associations to develop a single integrated plan that can work. We are working with like-minded associations such as Electro-Federation Canada, Canadian Hardware & Housewares Manufacturers Association, Canadian Appliance Manufacturers Association, and the Retail Council of Canada to develop an integrated program for electronic products and components.

Similar regulations are in development in Ontario and Nova Scotia, and it is anticipated that Quebec and Saskatchewan will follow announcing similar programs. CIPH is working with all the provinces to possibly integrate the requirements into a national program for the membership as a service to our members to apply to any province.

Other industries have endeavored to do this individually at an estimated cost of \$1 — 1.5 million on average.

To view the BC Recycling Regulation, please click on the link following: <http://tinyurl.com/ccazuq>

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today's competitive environment. More than 260 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 700 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. Total industry sales exceed \$4.6 billion annually.



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