

## PCB Overview

### **Backgrounder:**

Canada is signatory to several international agreements on the phase-out of a number of persistent toxic substances which include polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs. The new *PCB Regulations* came into force on September 5, 2008. The purpose of the Regulations is to improve the protection of Canada's environment and the health of Canadians by minimizing the risks posed by the use, storage and release of PCBs and by accelerating the elimination of these substances.

These regulations set specific end-of-use deadlines for PCB containing liquids and equipment. There are different annual reporting requirements based on the type of PCB, permitted activity and/or release into the environment. It is important for the University to recognize and identify possible sources of contaminated PCB waste materials.

### **Procedures:**

**ALL PCB-contaminated materials MUST be coordinated through the Office of Occupational Health Safety & Environment (OHSE) to ensure reporting requirements to Environment Canada are met.** OHSE will provide assistance in the identification, handling, storage and disposal options, as well as coordinating all regulatory requirements for PCB-contaminated materials. Please contact OHSE ([ohs@uvic.ca](mailto:ohs@uvic.ca)) if you are aware of or come across any materials that contain PCBs.

### **Reporting Categories:**

Any equipment which contains PCBs at a concentration between 50-500 mg/kg (ppm) must be phased out by 2025, including:

1. Electrical capacitors or transformers
2. Electromagnets
3. Pole-top electrical transformers and their pole-top auxiliary electrical equipment
4. Light ballasts\*
5. Heat transfer equipment, hydraulic equipment, vapor diffusion pumps and bridge bearings

*\*All light ballasts containing PCBs have been removed from campus and went for incineration disposal.*

### **Permitted Activities:**

Certain activities are permitted under the Regulations. Although these activities do not require reporting, they may be subject to specified conditions under the Regulations.

- Research (into the effect of PCBs)
- Electrical capacitors (fusion sealed and part of the consumer product)
- Cables and fusion sealed capacitors for communications
- Liquids (<2 mg/kg) for servicing any equipment
- Colouring pigments (<50 mg/kg)
- Solid products (<50 mg/kg)