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Understanding Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

Your Top 10 Safety Tips

LEARN HOW TO PROPERLY READ AN SDS TO KEEP SAFE USING HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Formerly known as a Material Safety Data Sheet, a Safety Data Sheet or SDS is a detailed informational document prepared by the manufacturer or importer of a hazardous chemical. OSHA requires that hazardous chemicals in a facility have an SDS in the actual work area and be located where it is easy to access and is known to all employees.

YOUR TOP 10 SAFETY TIPS

1. All SDSs follow the same 16 section format per the UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS)
2. Sections 1 through 8 contain general information about the chemical, identification, hazards, composition, safe handling practices, and emergency control measures
3. Section 1 provides an overview of the chemical including product identifier, manufacturer or distributor, address, phone number; emergency phone, and recommended use and restrictions
4. The most critical health information is found in sections 2 (hazards), 4 (first aid), 7 (handling/storage) and 8 (exposure controls/PPE)
5. Hazards are listed in section 2 which details the dangers for the specific chemical using pictograms and a warning rating system
6. First aid measures in the event of inhalation, eye or skin contact, ingestion and injection can be found in section 4
7. Safe handling and storage for a chemical are explained in section 7
8. Exposure limits, controls and PPE are in section 8
9. Sections 9 through 11 and section 16 contain other technical information, such as physical and chemical properties, stability and reactivity, toxicological, and exposure control
10. Sections 12-15 may be included but are not required by OSHA

BONUS TIP: Even when a chemical is no longer in use, the SDS must be archived/maintained for 30 years as an employee exposure record

$1.6B

ANNUAL COST OF DAMAGES FROM WORKPLACE CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS

32M

WORKERS POTENTIALLY EXPOSED TO CHEMICAL HAZARDS EACH YEAR

650K

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF EXISTING CHEMICAL PRODUCTS

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