

SAFETY DATA SHEETS

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)'s Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) requires chemical manufacturers, distributors, and importers to provide Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for each hazardous chemical to communicate information on these hazards. (Safety Data Sheets were formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets.) As of June 1, 2015, the new SDSs must be in a uniform format and include section numbers, headings, and associated information to help users find the information they need about a specific chemical.

A brief description of all 16 sections of the SDS, along with their contents, is presented below. OSHA itself will not enforce Sections 12 to 15 because they concern matters handled by other agencies. For example, Section 15 details what is found on the pesticide label enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The SDS may have a different signal word than the pesticide label, and it will include pictograms not found on the label.

For more details about SDSs, go to: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3514.html>

Section 1: Identification

This section includes product identifier; manufacturer or distributor name, address, and phone number; emergency phone number; recommended use; and restrictions on use.

Section 2: Hazard(s) Identification

This section includes all hazards regarding the chemical and required label elements.

Section 3: Composition/Information on Ingredients

This section includes information on chemical ingredients and trade secret claims.

Section 4: First Aid Measures

This section includes important symptoms, acute and delayed effects, and required treatment.

Section 5: Firefighting Measures

This section lists suitable extinguishing techniques, equipment, and chemical hazards from fire.

Section 6: Accidental Release Measures

This section lists emergency procedures, protective equipment, and proper methods of containment and cleanup.

Section 7: Handling and Storage

This section lists precautions for safe handling and storage, including incompatible products.

Section 8: Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

This section lists OSHA's permissible exposure limits, threshold limit values, appropriate engineering controls, and personal protective equipment.

Section 9: Physical and Chemical Properties

This section lists the product's physical and chemical characteristics.

Section 10: Stability and Reactivity

This section lists the product's chemical stability and the possibility of hazardous reactions.

Section 11: Toxicological Information

This section includes routes of exposure, related symptoms, acute and chronic effects, and numerical measures of toxicity.

Section 12: Ecological Information

This section provides information to evaluate the environmental impact of the chemical(s) if it were released outside the target area.

Section 13: Disposal Considerations

This section provides guidance on proper disposal practices, recycling or reclamation of the chemical(s) or its container, and safe handling practices.

Section 14: Transport Information

This section provides guidance on classification information for shipping and transporting hazardous chemical(s) by road, air, rail, or sea.

Section 15: Regulatory Information

This section identifies the safety, health, and environmental regulations specific for the product that are not indicated elsewhere on the SDS.

Section 16: Other Information

This section indicates when the SDS was prepared or when the last known revision was made.