



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

A safety data sheet (SDS) is a document, provided by a manufacturer and distributor, that summarizes a hazardous chemical's ingredients and safety information the user needs to know. All SDSs have the same format with 16 sections. Sections 1 through 8 contain general information about the chemical, identification, hazards, composition, safe handling practices, and emergency control measures. This information should be helpful to those that need to get the information quickly. Sections 9 through 11 and 16 contain other technical and scientific information, such as physical and chemical properties, stability and reactivity information, toxicological information, exposure control information, and other information including the date of preparation or last revision.

What products do I need an SDS for?

SDS must be available to each employee for the hazardous chemicals that they work with directly or are around at the work area. A hazardous chemical is defined as any substance, or mixture of substances which is classified as a physical hazard or a health hazard, a simple asphyxiant, combustible dust, pyrophoric gas, or hazard not otherwise classified. SDS are not required for non-hazardous materials or products.

Often the question is asked if SDS are needed for consumer products, that are hazardous chemicals by definition, but can be bought at any general store (for example Windex, Lysol, a can of wasp spray). The answer depends on how it is used in the workplace.

If used in the same manner as an average household consumer, an SDS is not needed. However, if the product is used beyond that of an average consumer, especially in regard to the frequency and quantity of use, then exposure rate is higher. So therefore, yes, a SDS is needed for those consumer products.

What info from a SDS should workers know?

The overall intent of an SDS is so a user can understand the hazards to avoid exposure and know how to respond if an emergency occurs involving the product. So train on, and ensure a worker understands, these points before work is assigned with hazardous chemicals. Remember to also train workers when a new hazardous chemical is introduced to the worksite.

Where are SDS to be located?

SDS should be available to each employee during their working shift in their primary working area. This can be accomplished by maintaining a hard copy of the SDS on-site, or by using electronic form capable of producing the same readable copy on-site. Electronic copies of SDS's are permitted as long as NO barriers to immediate employee access is created by this option.

Who is responsible for maintaining SDS?

- Any person who supervises workers using hazardous chemical.
- Principal investigators/scientist over a lab area with hazardous chemicals.
- Researchers/supervisors responsible for or assigned to storage areas with hazardous chemicals.

For more info contact:

Leslie Woolington

MAFES/MSU-ES Risk Mgmt.

LHW4@msstate.edu

662-325-3204

Sources:

https://www.osha.gov/Publications/HazComm_QuickCard_SafetyData.html

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1200>

<https://www.msdonline.com/2009/07/07/are-msdss-required-for-consumer-chemical-products/>