



Best Practice

Title: OSHA Hazard Communication Standard
Issue No.: CSDA-BP-025
Effective Date: March 18, 2019

The OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29-CFR 1926.59) includes a requirement for SDS (Safety Data Sheet) formerly MSDS or Material Safety Data Sheet. The construction standard (29-CFR 1926.59) is essentially the same as the industrial standard for this specific topic, which is 29-CFR 1910.1200, therefore it is frequently referenced by the industrial standard number instead of the construction standard number, on OSHA’s website and in online searches for additional information.

29-CFR 1910.1200(g) requires that a chemical supplier (chemical manufacturers, distributors or importers) provide an SDS for each hazardous chemical to all downstream users. The SDS is largely the same material as the old MSDS except it is presented in a globalized consistent 16-section format. Note- OSHA doesn’t consider Sections 12-15 as part of their jurisdiction, therefore they only enforce Sections 1-11.

- 29-CFR 1910.1200(g)(2)-
 - i. Section 1, Identification
 - ii. Section 2, Hazard(s) identification
 - iii. Section 3, Composition/information on ingredients
 - iv. Section 4, First-aid measures
 - v. Section 5, Fire-fighting measures
 - vi. Section 6, Accidental release measures
 - vii. Section 7, Handling and storage
 - viii. Section 8, Exposure controls/personal protection
 - ix. Section 9, Physical and chemical properties
 - x. Section 10, Stability and reactivity
 - xi. Section 11, Toxicological information
 - xii. *Section 12, Ecological information*
 - xiii. *Section 13, Disposal considerations,*
 - xiv. *Section 14, Transport information*
 - xv. *Section 15, Regulatory information*
 - xvi. Section 16, Other information, including date of preparation or last revision.

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The chemical manufacturer or importer is required to supply the SDS with the initial shipment, and, with the first shipment after the SDS is revised (updated). Chemical distributors may post the SDS or inform the customer that a SDS is available. Many chemical suppliers post the SDS on their website for convenience. The chemical supplier is required to provide a SDS upon request.

The contractor shall maintain in the workplace a copy (electronic or paper) of the SDS for each hazardous chemical (29-CFR 1910.1200(g)(8)). For field crew personnel that work offsite, the SDS may be kept at the primary workplace facility as long as the contractor can immediately obtain the required information in an emergency (29-CFR 1910.1200(g)(9)). The SDS may be kept in any form, including operating procedures, and may be designed to cover the chemicals or more appropriate (for hazards such as Respirable Silica Dust exposure (RCS)), to address the hazards of a process instead of the individual chemicals (29-CFR 1910.1200(g)(10)).

The SDS is a globally harmonized document that follows a specific format to keep it easy to find the information on the chemical hazard. It follows a 16 section format:

- SECTION 1: Identification of the substance/mixture and of the company/undertaking
 - 1.1. Product identifier
 - 1.2. Relevant identified uses of the substance or mixture and uses advised against
 - 1.3. Details of the supplier of the safety data sheet
 - 1.4. Emergency telephone number
- SECTION 2: Hazards identification
 - 2.1. Classification of the substance or mixture
 - 2.2. Label elements
 - 2.3. Other hazards
- SECTION 3: Composition/information on ingredients
 - 3.1. Substances
 - 3.2. Mixtures
- SECTION 4: First aid measures
 - 4.1. Description of first aid measures
 - 4.2. Most important symptoms and effects, both acute and delayed
 - 4.3. Indication of any immediate medical attention and special treatment needed

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- SECTION 5: Firefighting measures
 - 5.1. Extinguishing media
 - 5.2. Special hazards arising from the substance or mixture
 - 5.3. Advice for firefighters
- SECTION 6: Accidental release measure
 - 6.1. Personal precautions, protective equipment and emergency procedures
 - 6.2. Environmental precautions
 - 6.3. Methods and material for containment and cleaning up
 - 6.4. Reference to other sections
- SECTION 7: Handling and storage
 - 7.1. Precautions for safe handling
 - 7.2. Conditions for safe storage, including any incompatibilities
 - 7.3. Specific end use(s)
- SECTION 8: Exposure controls/personal protection
 - 8.1. Control parameters
 - 8.2. Exposure controls
- SECTION 9: Physical and chemical properties
 - 9.1. Information on basic physical and chemical properties
 - 9.2. Other information
- SECTION 10: Stability and reactivity
 - 10.1. Reactivity
 - 10.2. Chemical stability
 - 10.3. Possibility of hazardous reactions
 - 10.4. Conditions to avoid
 - 10.5. Incompatible materials
 - 10.6. Hazardous decomposition products
- SECTION 11: Toxicological information
 - 11.1. Information on toxicological effects
- SECTION 12: Ecological information
 - 12.1. Toxicity
 - 12.2. Persistence and degradability
 - 12.3. Bioaccumulative potential
 - 12.4. Mobility in soil

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- 12.5. Results of PBT and vPvB assessment
 - 12.6. Other adverse effects
 - SECTION 13: Disposal considerations
 - 13.1. Waste treatment methods
 - SECTION 14: Transport information
 - 14.1. UN number
 - 14.2. UN proper shipping name
 - 14.3. Transport hazard class(es)
 - 14.4. Packing group
 - 14.5. Environmental hazards
 - 14.6. Special precautions for user
 - 14.7. Transport in bulk according to Annex II of MARPOL73/78 and the IBC Code
 - SECTION 15: Regulatory information
 - 15.1. Safety, health and environmental regulations/legislation specific for the substance or mixture
 - 15.2. Chemical safety assessment
 - SECTION 16: Other information
 - 16.2. Date of the latest revision of the SDS

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