

Hazard Communication: Reading Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

The Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) requires chemical manufacturers, distributors and importers to provide safety data sheets (SDSs), formerly known as material safety data sheets (MSDSs), to communicate the hazards associated with hazardous chemical products. The HCS requires that new SDSs follow a consistent format and include section numbers, headings, and associated information.

Safety Data Sheet (SDS) Sections

- 1. Identification:** includes product identifier; manufacturer or distributor name, address, phone number; emergency phone number; recommended use and restrictions on use
- 2. Hazard(s) Identification:** includes all hazards regarding the chemical; required label elements
- 3. Composition/Information on Ingredients:** information on chemical ingredients and trade secret claims
- 4. First-aid Measures:** includes procedures to be followed in case of exposure to the chemical, including symptoms/effects of exposure and appropriate first-aid measures.
- 5. Fire-fighting Measures:** Recommendations for firefighting procedures and special precautions for firefighters.
- 6. Accidental Release Measures:** Steps to be taken in the event of spills, leaks, or releases, including containment, cleanup, and disposal procedures
- 7. Handling and Storage:** lists precautions for safe handling and storage, including incompatibilities
- 8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection:** Information on exposure limits, engineering controls, and personal protective equipment (PPE) required to prevent exposure
- 9. Physical and Chemical Properties:** Characteristics of the chemical, such as appearance, odor, pH, melting point, boiling point, and solubility
- 10. Stability and Reactivity:** lists chemical stability reactivity and potential hazardous reactions, as well as conditions to avoid
- 11. Toxicological Information:** lists routes of exposure; related symptoms, acute and chronic effects; measures of toxicity
- 12. Ecological Information (non-mandatory):** potential environmental impact
- 13. Disposal Considerations (non-mandatory):** proper disposal and handling practices
- 14. Transport Information (non-mandatory):** Classification, packaging, labeling, and shipping requirements for the chemical during transportation.
- 15. Regulatory Information (non-mandatory):** Regulatory information and compliance requirements for the chemical product
- 16. Other Information:** includes the related documents or technical specifications

SDSs for hazardous chemicals used at SJSU are available through the [SDS link](#).

References

- Regulation: Standard Number 1910.1200: Hazard Communication
- OSHA: [Hazard Communication Standard: Safety Data Sheets](#)
- SJSU [Hazard Communication Plan](#)