

SDS - Safety Data Sheet Sections - Part II

[This is the eighth module explaining changes in OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard. Note that the new Safety Data Sheets are mandatory for pesticides, as well as non-pesticide hazardous chemicals in the workplace. See Techletter, July 7, 2013 for the introduction to OSHA's training requirements for technicians. In the September 15 Techletter, we introduced the new Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and listed its 16 sections. This is the second issue detailing what each section covers.]

Section 6: Accidental Release Measures -

- Recommends the appropriate response to spills or leaks, including containment and clean-up procedures.
- Includes personal precautions, protective equipment, evacuation procedures, containment methods, and decontamination of the site.

Section 7: Handling and Storage –

- Gives precautions for safe handling of the chemical, including personal hygiene (eating, smoking, drinking) and steps to minimize release of the chemical into the environment.
- Gives recommendations for safe storage of the chemical, including any specific storage requirements such as ventilation.

Section 8: Exposure Controls/Personal Protection –

- Gives any limits set for maximum exposure to the chemical and any engineering controls required such as use of exhaust ventilation.
- Recommends personal protective measures and any specific personal protective equipment needed to minimize worker exposure.

Section 9: Physical and Chemical Properties –

- Identifies required information on 23 different physical and chemical properties of the substance, including such items as odor, vapor pressure, pH, melting point, flammability, and water solubility.
- Some of these items may be missing if the information is not available or not relevant for a particular chemical. Missing items must be noted as such, and additional items may be added.

Section 10: Stability and Reactivity –

- The “Reactivity” subsection describes the specific test data for the chemical.
- The “Chemical Stability” subsection tells whether the chemical is stable, or not, under certain storage and handling conditions.
- The “Other” subsection gives the possibility of hazardous reactions, lists all conditions to be avoided, lists incompatible materials that could cause a reaction, and lists any hazardous decomposition products that could be produced.

Section 11: Toxicological Information –

- Gives toxicological and health effects or indicates if that information is not available. Information includes the routes of exposure to the chemical, description of effects from short and long-term exposure, and description of symptoms of exposure.
- Gives measurement of toxicity of the chemical such as LD50, and indicates whether chemical has carcinogenic properties.

(continued next issue)