SDS - The Safety Data Sheet Has Replaced the MSDS

[This is the sixth 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. There are 10 modules in this series.]

Under its Hazard Communication Standard revision, OSHA has completely redone what used to be our familiar MSDS. The old Material Safety Data Sheet has been replaced by the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). The new Safety Data Sheet provides essentially the same information as the MSDS, but in a more user-friendly format. The Safety Data Sheet changes apply to pesticides, as well as all other hazardous materials. Every hazardous chemical will have a corresponding Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

MSDSs contain 9 sections, more or less, with no required format. SDSs always contain the same 16 categories of chemical information in the same order. OSHA requires that SDS preparers provide specific minimum information, but they may also add additional information in certain sections. If a preparer does not have information for a required section of the SDS, he must state that fact in the section rather than skipping the section.

You may already be seeing your first Safety Data Sheets for pesticide products. You need to learn the 16 sections of an SDS and what kind of information you can find in each. Sections 1 through 8 give general information about the chemical and its safe handling. This information is accessible quickly. Sections 9 through 11, and 16 provide more detailed technical and scientific information about the chemical. Sections 12 through 15 are included by OSHA to be consistent with the GHS classification system (see *Techletter*, July 7), but OSHA does not enforce the content of these sections since their information is under the jurisdiction of other agencies:

Section 1. Identification
Section 2. Hazard(s) Identification
Section 3. Composition/Information on Ingredients
Section 4. First-aid Measures
Section 5. Fire-fighting Measures
Section 6. Accidental Release Measures
Section 7. Handling and Storage
Section 8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection
Section 9. Physical and Chemical Properties
Section 10. Stability and Reactivity
Section 11. Toxicological Information
Section 12. Ecological Information
Section 13. Disposal Considerations
Section 14. Transport Information
Section 15. Regulatory Information
Section 16. Other Information