

SDS - Safety Data Sheet Sections - Part I

[This is the seventh 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. Here, and in the next two modules, we detail what each section covers. There are 10 modules in this series.]

Section 1: Identification –

- Identifies the chemical using the product identifier on the label and any common names.
- Provides the essential contact information for the supplier (name, address, phone number, emergency phone number).
- States the recommended use of the chemical, such as “flame retardant” and lists any restrictions on its use.

Section 2: Hazard(s) Identification –

- Gives the hazard classification of the chemical, its signal word, and its label pictograms.
- Lists all (1) hazard statements and all (2) precautionary statements, and describes any hazards not otherwise classified.
- If the chemical is a mixture that contains an ingredient with unknown toxicity, includes a statement that gives the percentage of the mixture that is of unknown toxicity.

Section 3: Composition/Information on Ingredients –

- For both substances and mixtures: Lists the chemical name, common name and synonyms, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number & other unique identifiers, and impurities and additives.
- For mixtures: also lists the chemical name and concentration of all ingredients classified as health hazards, and the percent concentration of each ingredient.
- For chemicals where a trade secret is claimed: includes a statement that chemical information has been withheld.

Section 4: First-Aid Measures –

- Describes first-aid measures that should be given by an untrained responder to a person that has been exposed to the chemical, by route of exposure (mouth, skin, eyes, inhalation).
- Describes the most important symptoms and any acute or delayed symptoms.
- Recommends immediate medical care and special treatment when necessary, and includes “Notes to Physician.”

Section 5: Fire-fighting Measures -

- Gives recommendations for fighting a fire caused by the chemical, including the proper extinguishers to use.
- Advises of specific hazards that could result as the chemical burns such as the creation of hazardous combustion products.
- Recommends medical care and special treatment that might be needed, including special precautions for fire-fighters.

(continued next issue)