

# What Worker need to know in Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

Safety Data Sheets are forms containing information concerning the properties of a particular substance. They are available for all chemicals and substances and are designed to provide workers and emergency personal proper procedures when handling the particular substance.

Always be familiar with the hazards of a product **before** you start using it. You should look at an SDS, match the name of the product on the container to the one on the SDS, know the hazards, understand safe handling and storage instructions, as well as understand what to do in an emergency.

You can think of the SDS as having four main purposes. It provides information on:

**Identification:** for the product and supplier.

**Hazards:** physical (fire and reactivity) and health.

**Prevention:** steps you can take to work safely, reduce or prevent exposure, or in an emergency.

**Response:** appropriate responses in various situations (e.g., first-aid, fire, accidental release).



For most people who work with hazardous products, you should always:

read the name of the chemical (Section 1), know the hazards (Section 2), understand safe handling and storage instructions (Section 7), and understand what to do in an emergency (Sections 4, 5 and 6).



An SDS has **16 major sections**. This document explains the organization of and information provided by an SDS.

## Sections 1 — 3 What is the material and what are its characteristics

**Section 1** – Identification identifies the chemical

**Section 2** – Hazard(s) identification

**Section 3** – Composition/information on ingredients

## Sections 4 — 6 What to do if a hazardous situation occurs

**Section 4** – First-aid measures

**Section 5** – Fire-fighting measures

**Section 6** – Accidental release measures

## Sections 7— 11 How to prevent a hazardous situation from occurring

**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

## Sections 12— 16 How Dispose of and Transport the chemical plus Regulatory Information

**Section 12** – Ecological information

**Section 13** – Disposal considerations

**Section 14** – Transport information

**Section 15** – Regulatory information

**Section 16** – Other information

## When does an MSDS expire?

The information in MSDSs must be kept current. MSDSs must be updated by the manufacturer or importer as often as reasonably possible to **keep them current** and at a **minimum of every five years**. The employer should check the dates of all MSDSs and ensure that **all MSDSs at the workplace are current**.