



MANAGEMENT: SAFETY DATA SHEET



INTRODUCTION

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are an essential key for Hazard Communication. The purpose of the SDS is to inform users of hazardous chemicals, of the risks associated with each chemical, proper handling instructions, and other important information about each chemical.

ACCESS

- Readily accessible copies of the required safety data sheets must be maintained in the workplace. These must be available for every shift.
- An exception to the above is when an employees must travel between workplaces, the SDS may be kept at the primary workplace facility.
- Safety data sheet must be made available to the employee's physician upon request.



EMPLOYEE RIGHTS



Employees must be informed of their rights pertaining to working around hazardous chemicals. These include:

- To receive information concerning the hazardous chemicals in which they are at risk for exposure.
- For their physician or collective bargaining agent to receive information regarding hazardous chemicals to which the employee may be exposed.
- Protected against discharge or other discrimination due to the employee's exercise of the rights afforded pursuant to the provisions of the Hazardous Substances Information and Training Act.



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TRAINING

- Employees must be provided with effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area:
 - At the time of their initial assignment.
 - Whenever a new chemical that they have not been trained on is introduced into their work area.
- Information and training may relate to general classes of hazardous chemicals to the extent appropriate and related to reasonably foreseeable exposures of the job.
- Chemical-specific information must always be available through labels and safety data sheets.
- Employees should be:
 - Informed of the requirements of the SDS.
 - Informed of any operations where hazardous chemicals are present in their work area.
 - Informed of the location of the safety data sheet.
 - Trained in the methods needed to detect the presence or release of hazardous chemicals.
 - Trained in in the physical, health, simple asphyxiation, combustible dust and pyrophoric gas hazards.
 - Trained in hazards not otherwise classified.



CONCLUSION

Safety data sheets are vitally important to maintaining a safe work environment. It is important that employees are trained to know where the SDS sheets are located and their rights pertaining to working around hazardous chemicals.

