

Safety Note #21

SAFETY DATA SHEETS



California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 8, Section 5194 (g) (1) requires a safety data sheet (SDS) for each hazardous chemical present in the workplace. In addition, the employer is required to maintain a list of the hazardous substances known to be present in the workplace [CCR Title 8, Section 5194 (e) (1)] and to provide employees with information and training about hazardous substances in their work areas, including an explanation of SDSs and providing the location and availability of SDSs [CCR Title 8, Section 5194 (h) (1) & (2)]. SDSs may be kept at a single location for the entire workplace, or in individual work areas.

CCR Title 8, Section 5194 (b) (5) provides an exception to the employer's requirement to provide a SDS for the following types of materials: hazardous wastes, wood products which will not be cut or processed, materials for personal consumption by employees (such as tobacco, foods, drugs, or cosmetics), or consumer products, provided that employee exposure is not significantly greater than the exposure that occurs through normal consumer use of the product.

It is imperative that employees both understand SDS information and know the location(s) where SDSs are stored. **Videos E-035 and S-035, Hazard Communications, are available from the ANR Environmental Health and Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.**

Information Required on SDSs [CCR Title 8, Section 5194 (g) (2)]

- Each SDS shall be in English and contain the chemical common name and Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) identification number for the hazardous substance.
- Physical and chemical properties of the hazardous substance (i.e., flash point).
- Physical hazards of the hazardous substance, including the potential for fire, explosion, and reactivity.
- Health hazards of the hazardous substance, including signs and symptoms of exposure, and any medical conditions recognized as being aggravated by exposure to the substance.
- Potential routes of entry into the body.
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) permissible exposure limit, American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) threshold limit value, or any other exposure limit recommended by the manufacturer preparing the SDS.
- Listing in the National Toxicology Program (NTP) *Sixth Annual Report on Carcinogens* or has been found to be a potential carcinogen in the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) *Monographs*, Vols. 1 through 53 and Supplements 1 through 8 or by OSHA.
- Applicable precautions for safe handling and use, including appropriate hygienic practices, protective measures during repair and maintenance of contaminated equipment, and procedures for cleanup of spills and leaks.
- Suitable control measures, including appropriate engineering controls, work practices, or personal protective equipment.
- Emergency and first-aid procedures.
- Date of preparation of the SDS or the date of last revision.
- Name, date, and telephone number of the hazardous substance manufacturer.
- A description in lay terms of specific potential health risks posed by the hazardous substance.

If you do not understand any of the information provided on a SDS, ask your supervisor for clarification about the information in question.