



Hazardous Communications Material Safety Data Sheets MSDS

Safety and Environmental Management System

SEMS 6-3

Hazardous Communications Chemical Hazards

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

Using an MSDS:

A MSDS provides information that the manufacturer of a chemical considers necessary for you, the worker, to determine what chemicals are in a product and what steps to take to protect yourself when using the product. Although MSDSs from different sources may look very different, they all contain the same type of information. MSDS may look difficult; and yes, there is a lot of technical language and data, but the information you need to identify, understand, and work safely with a chemical product is fairly easy to find.

MSDSs are divided into sections usually beginning with the chemical and common name of the product. Besides knowing what this product is called, it's important to know who makes it and where to reach the manufacturer. The manufacturer can answer questions about its product and help you if an emergency arises. You will usually find a phone number for the manufacturer in this section. An important section to look for is usually called "Health Hazards" which tells you how dangerous the product can be, the type of danger it represents and what happens if you are overexposed to this product.

Equally important is the section that deals with "First Aid". This section will give you some basic steps to take if you or another person is affected by the chemicals in this product. Further sections deal with "Protective Equipment". Here, specific recommendations for safety equipment and procedures are listed. This section tells you how to protect yourself from exposure when working with or near this product.

By taking the time to read the MSDS, you have found some important basic information about the chemical(s) you work with including:

What's it called?

What's in it?

What happens if the chemical affects you?

What First Aid steps to take if exposure occurs?

How to protect yourself and work safely with the chemical?



Hazardous Communications Material Safety Data Sheets MSDS

Safety and Environmental Management System		SEMS 6-3
--	--	----------

Other sections of a MSDS will tell you what the chemical looks, smells, and feels like; how to safely handle and store the chemical; what happens to the chemical in the event of a fire; and what, if any, exposure limits have been set or recommended for the chemical(s) or product.

Under the provisions of the Hazard Communication Standard, you have the opportunity to review your company's program, chemical inventory list and copies of MSDSs for chemicals you are working with. You will also receive annual training on the program, MSDS sheets and chemical hazards in your workplace.

More information on MSDS, chemical information references and chemical safety can be obtained by asking your supervisor. MSDS books are supplied to all locations to review and the master list and printable MSDS sheets can also be seen at www.sontheimeroffshore.com from any computer, anywhere with an internet connection.