



Hanover County Safety & Risk Management Communication

Happy Safety & Risk Friday (#SafetyFriday)! This week's short subject centers on Chemical Handling & Storage – Safety Data Sheets (Part 3 of 3)!

Safety & Risk Tip of the Week:

A safety data sheet—or SDS—is a document prepared by chemical manufacturers for any chemical which presents a hazard to health and safety. A safety data sheet includes information about each chemical, covering the physical and environmental hazards, precautions for safe handling, storage, and transportation of the chemical, and more.

When utilizing a Safety Data Sheet, here are five things to look for:

- First Aid (Section 4) – Basic first aid information is available on the product label, but the SDS will provide more detail on the symptoms of exposure, as well as greater detail for initial treatment.
- Firefighting (Section 5) – Some chemicals require specific firefighting techniques or create special hazards when involved in a fire. The information in this section instructs firefighters on suitable fire extinguishing techniques.
- Spills (Section 6) – Spills may necessitate special handling procedures for PPE or those responding. Methods for containing and cleaning up a release are also described.
- Storage and Handling (Section 7) – The segregation of incompatible materials and other safe storage and handling procedures are detailed.
- Routes of Exposure (Sections 8 and 11) – More in-depth information on how the chemical can affect you, including exposure limits and the effects of acute and chronic exposure revision date.

Keep in mind that some Safety data sheets may be 15 pages or more! Depending on the complexity of the chemical or substances therein, each section may have multiple descriptive fields with additional detail, providing different levels of information. Safety data Sheets can be an employee's first line of defense in making sure that any chemicals used in the workplace are utilized safely with minimal impact!

For more detailed information on commonly asked questions regarding Safety Data Sheets and their use in the workplace, the attached short video link from the [Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation](#) provides an excellent overview of the importance of SDS's in the workplace!

Safety & Risk Resource Spotlight:

- **SDS-GHS Viewer:** SDS-GHS Viewer provides printable safety data sheets and GHS labels from chemical manufacturers and suppliers. The application supports the revised OSHA Hazard Communication Standard requirements for the Global Harmonized System for the labeling and classification of Chemicals in the workplace. It includes SDS documents and GHS labels for thousands of products and maintains up to date versions of all SDS' as well as maintaining information on new products and suppliers. **SDS-GHS Viewer is available in the Apple App Store and through Google Play for download!**

Did you know?

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) issued 1,939 citations to employers in FY 2021 around Hazard Communication. The main topics of those citations were related to Safety Data Sheets, specifically, availability to the employee, training on accessing & reading a safety data sheet and having up to date SDS's for chemicals in the work environment.



Safety & Risk Observances:

- [National Safety Month](#)

The month of June is recognized as National Safety Month! Each year, the National Safety Council (NSC) provides information and resources on four pre-selected safety & risk topics to help raise awareness of safety & risk in the workplace. To access these resources & sign up for notifications, please visit the National Safety Council Website.