

Material Safety Data Sheets

Here's a practical checklist to use when explaining to employees the important subjects covered by these sheets:

1. Substance Identification:
 - Name of chemical
 - Name and address of manufacturer
 - Emergency telephone number
2. Hazardous Ingredients:
 - Lists chemicals that are harmful
 - Lists the concentrations of a substance to which you can be exposed. These are known as permissible exposure limits (PELs), set by OSHA, and the threshold limit values (TLVs), set by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.
3. Physical and Chemical Data
 - Appearance and odor
 - Vapor pressure - at what rate does it evaporate?
 - Boiling point
4. Fire and Explosion Hazard:
 - Temperature the substance can ignite, known as the flash point. If the substance is flammable, it ignites below 100° F.
 - What types of extinguishing media to use
5. Reactivity Data:
 - Incompatibility - will the substance react when coming in contact with other substances or conditions?
 - Instability - will environmental conditions, such as heat, cause a dangerous reaction?
6. Health Hazard Data:
 - Route of entry - inhalation, skin or ingestion
 - Acute and/or chronic effects
 - Signs and symptoms
 - Emergency procedures

7. Precautions for Safe Handling:

- What to do if substance spills
- Handling and storage practices
- Disposal methods

8. Control Measures:

- Types of personal protective equipment to use
- Ventilation requirements
- Personal hygiene practices

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