

HOW TO READ a MSDS

(Material Safety Data Sheet)

Introduction

All industrial materials (such as glue, oil, pesticides, liquid paper....) are required to have a Material Safety Data Sheet. Material Safety Data Sheets (also known as MSDS) contain key safety information that is used for training employees, responding to emergencies, treating exposures and many other uses.

As a pest control licensee you should be using your MSDS on a daily basis. What are a few of the daily uses where you should be utilizing MSDS?

- To find out about the personal safety precautions you should use when using a product
- To be knowledgeable of short term and long term effects of over exposure
- To find out about common routes of exposure
- To find out about flammability and other reactive information
- You should keep your MSDS and Labels on the seat of your truck vehicle attached to your Shipping Papers

EVERY MSDS you ever read will contain the following information:

1. The specific chemical identity of the hazardous substance and other names or if it is a mixture, it's components over 1% (or if a carcinogen over 0.1%) that contribute to the hazard of a mixture.
2. The Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number of the hazardous substance, and/or the CAS numbers of all the ingredients that have been determined to be health hazards. (California ONLY, not required by the Federal OSHA)
3. The potential for fire and/or explosion, including flash point, explosive limits, auto-ignition temperature, etc.
4. The physical properties of the hazardous substance, including vapor pressure, boiling range, percentage of volatility, etc...
5. Reactivity. Any conditions that may cause a dangerous reaction must be included.
6. The health risks of over exposure, include both acute and chronic affects.
7. Any medical conditions that are generally recognized as being aggravated by exposure to the substance
8. The primary route(s) of entry, including inhalation, skin, eye contact and ingestion.
9. The OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL), ACGIH Threshold Limit Value (TLV), and any other exposure limit used or recommended by the person preparing the MSDS.
10. Whether it is a carcinogen according to the regulation. If an ingredient is a recognized carcinogen (pursuant to subsection (d) (4) of the regulation), it must be listed as a carcinogen if the concentration is 0.1% or greater.
11. Personal protective equipment. The information should be specific, for example, types of respirator to be used, glove materials, etc...
12. Emergency and first aid procedures. What to do in case of inhalation, skin contact, eye contact, ingestion, etc....
13. Spills/disposal. Practical guidance that can be used in an emergency to control a spill and protect employees.
14. Fire conditions. How firefighters should protect themselves and others, extinguishing media, hazardous combustion by-products, etc...
15. The date of preparation of the MSDS, and/or the date of the latest revision. If a MSDS is revised, this should be so noted.
16. The name, address, and telephone number of the person preparing the MSDS.

17. An explanation in lay terms of the specific potential health risks posed by the hazardous substance that can be understood by persons without medical training.
18. Any generally known precautions for safe handling and use of the hazardous substance.
19. The DOT Shipping Description and UN or NA Identification Number must be CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE at the top of the MSDS and the TAB of the MSDS Binder, IF you are using your MSDS as the source for the Emergency Response Information that must be transported with your DOT Shipping Papers.

NOTE: If some of the information required is unavailable to the person preparing the MSDS, or if any of the information is not applicable to the specific substance, this will be stated. There should be no blank spaces in the MSDS.

The information that is required to be on the MSDS is organized on the MSDS form in the following format:

- Section 1 - Hazardous Ingredients
- Section 2 - Physical Data
- Section 3 - Fire and Explosion Data
- Section 4 - Health Hazard Data
- Section 5 - Reactivity Data
- Section 6 - Spill or Leak Procedures
- Section 7 - Special Protection Information
- Section 8 - Special Precautions
- Section 9 - Health Rating Information
- Section 10 - SARA Title III/Section 313 Supplier Notification