

The Cambridge Risk Control Website is now up and running !

www.cambridgeriskcontrol.com

Point your web browser to our new site and check out what's available from Cambridge Risk Control. Now, our clients can **request safety videos, download safety handouts and contact us via the web!** In the near future, our clients will be able to download sample safety training programs and sample safety policies and procedures! Have a look and let us know what you think!

The OSHA Hazard Communication Standard

Part II – Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS):

(By Jody Warner - Cambridge Risk Control Supervisor)

Part II of our article covering OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1910.1200, Hazard Communication is designed to address some frequently asked questions about "Material Safety Data Sheets".

Of course, "**What is an MSDS?**" – Simply, they're an educational tool. MSDS are the required, primary method of communicating detailed information about workplace chemicals to the employees. MSDS are an integral part of the overall Hazard Communication effort.

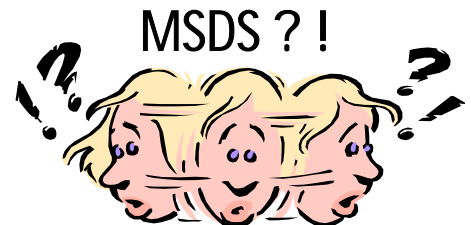
An MSDS contains information about chemicals and is written into categories that include:

- The identity and/or name used on the labels of containers;
- Its chemical and common name(s), if the chemical is a single substance;
- The chemical and common name(s) of all ingredients which contribute to hazards;
- Physical and chemical characteristics of the chemical (vapor pressure, flash point, etc.);
- Physical hazards of the chemical (fire, explosion, reactivity, etc.);
- Health hazards of the chemical (signs/symptoms of exposure, medical conditions, etc.);
- The primary route(s) of entry – inhalation, absorption, ingestion;
- OSHA permissible exposure limit (PEL), ACGIH (www.acgih.org) * threshold limit value (TLV) and any other exposure limit used or recommended by the chemical manufacturer, importer, or employer preparing the material safety data sheet;
- Whether the hazardous chemical is listed in the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Annual Report on Carcinogens or is a potential carcinogen in the International Agency for Research on Cancer Monographs (www.iarc.fr), or by OSHA;
- Any generally applicable precautions for safe handling and use which are known to the chemical manufacturer, importer or employer preparing the material safety data sheet;
- Any generally applicable control measures which are known to the chemical manufacturer, importer or employer preparing the material safety data sheet;
- Emergency and first aid procedures;
- Date of preparation of the material safety data sheet or the last change to it;
- Name, address and telephone number of the chemical manufacturer, importer, employer or other responsible party preparing or distributing the material safety data sheet.

As you can see, each MSDS contains a large amount of information.

"How do I obtain MSDS?" - Every chemical manufacturer or importer is required to make each MSDS available to the end users. In fact, they are required to, "... either provide material safety data sheets with the shipped containers or send them to the distributor or employer prior to or at the time of the shipment." However, remember that, "...if the material safety data sheet is not provided with a shipment that has been labeled as a hazardous chemical, the distributor **or employer** shall obtain one from the chemical manufacturer or importer as soon as possible..." - 29 CFR 1910.1200 (g)(6)(i), (ii) and (iii).

The easiest way to acquire an MSDS when you need one is to contact the chemical manufacturer. The name and address of the chemical manufacturer is required to be on the label - 29 CFR 1910.1200 (f)(iii). Additional information about labeling will be covered in Part III of this series – Labeling.



2004 Dates To Remember:

January:

Plan Your Safety Training Now!
Call Jody For Training Ideas !
312-381-8208

February:

8-14 Child Passenger Safety Week

March:

16-22 Poison Prevention Week
Workplace Eye Safety Month
Save Your Vision Month

April:

Sports Eye Safety Month
4-10 Intl Building Safety Week
7-11 Workzone Aware. Week
26-30 Playground Safety Week

May:

Clean Air Month
Melanoma Awareness Month
Electrical Safety Month
16-22 National EMS Week
16-22 Poison Prevention Week

June:

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

July:

Eye Injury Prevention Month

August:

Prepare Your Winter Safety Training!

September:

19-25 Farm Safety/Health Week

October:

5-11 Nat. Fire Prevention Week
20-24 School Bus Safety Week
20-24 Radon Action Week

November:

Take advantage of the weather and do your classroom training!

December:

"3D Month" - National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month

OSHA Hazard Communication Standard – (continued)

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“Can I use an electronic version of the MSDS on our computer network?” Yes. 29 CFR 1910.1200 (g) (8) states, “... Electronic access, microfiche, and other alternatives to maintaining paper copies of the material safety data sheets are permitted as long as no barriers to immediate employee access in each workplace are created by such options.”

Furthermore, 29 CFR 1910.1200 (g) (10) states, “... Material safety data sheets may be kept in any form... However, the employer shall ensure that in all cases the required information is provided for each hazardous chemical, and is readily accessible during each work shift to employees when they are in their work area(s).”

“Is an MSDS actually required for my White Out*, Windex* and Pledge*?” Thankfully, no. This is probably the most commonly asked Haz-Com question. The key to addressing this issue lies in one simple question – How is the product used? Pay particular attention to item (viii) below. 29 CFR 1910.1200 (b) (6) states,

“This (standard) does not apply to:

- (i) Any hazardous waste...defined by the Solid Waste Disposal Act;
- (ii) Any hazardous substance...as defined by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability ACT (CERCLA);
- (iii) Tobacco or tobacco products;
- (iv) Wood or wood products, including lumber;
- (v) Food or alcoholic beverages;
- (vi) Any drug, as defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;
- (vii) Cosmetics which are packaged for sale to consumers as defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;
- (viii) Any consumer product or hazardous substance, as...defined in the Consumer Product Safety Act...and Federal Hazardous Substances Act...where the employer can show that it is used in the workplace for the purpose intended by the chemical manufacturer or importer of the product, and the use results in a duration and frequency of exposure which is not greater than the range of exposures that could reasonably be experienced by consumers when used for the purpose intended;**
- (ix) Nuisance particulates where...they do not pose any physical or health hazard...;
- (x) Ionizing and nonionizing radiation; and,
- (xi) Biological hazards.”

In summary, Material Safety Data Sheets can be a nuisance to an employer. They can be a time consuming hassle! Their management can be made easier by setting up a standard program that includes: acquisition (get them) – verification (are they correct?) – file system (paper/digital) – training (use them in training) – update (regularly).

The OSHA Hazard Communication Standard referenced in this article (29 CFR 1910.1200) is a long, detailed document.

It's highly recommended that you visit www.osha.gov and take a look at the written standard. A few minutes of reading will tell you much more than we could possibly write in this small amount of space!

A good MSDS program - "...the cornerstone of a solid Hazard Communication Program...".

* "White Out", "Windex" & "Pledge" are Registered Trademarks of their respective manufacturers.

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Safety Resource Center

It's Good To Know:

The Cambridge Risk Control Department has over 30 different "Hazard Communication" informational handouts available to our clients.

MSDS, explosives, compressed gases, flammable liquids, oxidizers, poisons, corrosives, storage, handling, chemical spills and many others!

We also have over a dozen Haz Com safety videos! Go to www.cambridgeriskcontrol.com to see the current safety video list.

MSDS Resources:

Online resources for MSDS:

www.msds.com
<http://siri.org/msds>
www.MSDSonline.com
www.setonresourcecenter.com
www.msds.com
www.chemfinder.com
www.sigmaaldrich.com (mfr.)

Please note that the Cambridge Risk Control Department is neither endorsing these websites nor making a claim to their accuracy, cost or usefulness. We are listing them solely as a resource for your MSDS needs. We encourage you to visit these, and other websites, to decide what's best for your company.

Need A Leg Up?:

Are you one of the many people that improvises when you *really* need a ladder? A Bucket? Chair? Desk? Shelf? Counter? Box? Car? Truck? **Coworker ! ? !**

Do yourself and your company a favor. **Take the time and get a ladder or a proper step stool!**

Also, when buying ladders, consider buying fiberglass. They tend to last longer, remain sturdy and don't conduct electricity!

Go to www.cambridgeriskcontrol.com for safety handouts that cover ladder use, selection and maintenance.