SAFETY MEMO

January 25th, 2021 – Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

Did you know?

Definition and Purpose

The SDS provides information about the hazards of a product and advice about safety precautions. The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is a summary document for practical use, as well as a key element in risk prevention by providing information for users of chemicals.

The SDS complements the label of the hazardous chemical. One purpose of the SDS is to provide the employer with information allowing it:

- To assess, based on data validated by the supplier, the dangers of the products at the worksite.
- To identify and assess the risks to which users are exposed.
- To put in place suitable prevention and safety measures.
- To inform and train workers and, if necessary, to develop job descriptions.

An SDS containing one or more Exposure Scenarios (ES) in the annex, is called an Extended Safety Data Sheet (e-SDS). The ES presents all the conditions for the safe use of a chemical throughout its life cycle. In practice, ESs develop the information provided in the SDS.

The information found on the SDS is as follows:

1. Identification of the product and the supplier.
2. The hazards present: physical hazards (fire and reactivity) and health hazards.
3. The preventative measures to be taken to work with the chemical safely and to prevent or limit exposure.
4. Emergency response measures for various types of emergencies such as first aid, fire and accidental spill.

The Content of the SDS

The content of the SDS is standardized. Both the ISO 11014: 2009 and the UN GHS (Rev. 8, 2019) define the 16 sections of the SDS:

- Section N ° 1: Identification of the substance / Supplier information.
- Section N ° 2: Hazard identification.
- Section N ° 3: Composition / Information on ingredients.
- Section N ° 4: First aid measures.
- Section N ° 5: Firefighting measures.
- Section N ° 6: Measures to be taken in the event of an accidental release.
- Section N ° 7: Handling and storage.
- Section N ° 8: Exposure control / Personal protection.
- Section N ° 9: Physical and chemical properties.
- Section N ° 10: Stability and reactivity.
- Section N ° 11: Toxicological information.
- Section N ° 12: Ecological information.
- Section N ° 13: Disposal considerations.
- Section N ° 14: Transport information.
- Section N ° 15: Regulatory information.
- Section N ° 16: Other information.