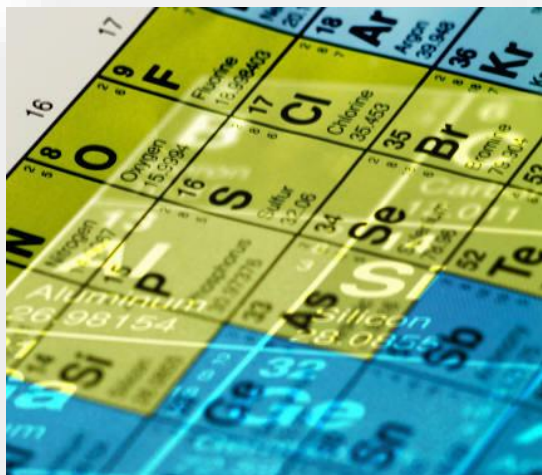


Spotlight On Safety

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READING AN SDS: ANSI FORMAT



A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is a chemical information sheet that lists the substance's safety handling and storage procedures. SDSs can help you work safely with chemicals by providing health hazards associated with the substance, safety precautions, and recommended emergency procedures for fires, spills, and first aid. Make sure you read the SDS before working with an unfamiliar substance. SDSs come in different formats, however the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) format is highly recommended by OSHA. The sections below summarize how to read an SDS in the ANSI format.

Chemical Product & Manufacturer/Company Information

- Contains chemical name and may include synonyms
- Lists the name, address and/or phone number of the company, manufacturer or distributor

Composition & Data on Ingredients

- Only the hazardous ingredients are identified
- Exposure limits are usually listed

Hazard Identification

- Discusses the health effects of exposure, targeted organs
- Identifies routes of entry (inhalation, ingestion, absorption, etc.)
- Describes symptoms and warning signs associated with exposure

First Aid Measures

- Describes user-friendly first aid procedures for each route of entry

Fire Fighting Measures

- Provides information on fire and explosive properties of substance for use by First Responders such as the Fire Department
- Describes extinguishing materials and instructions

Accidental Release Measures

- Describes how to respond to a spill or a release into the air (clean up materials, techniques, protective

equipment, etc.)

Handling & Storage

- Describes handling procedures, storage containers and especial conditions (incompatibilities, etc.)

Exposure Controls & Personal Protection

- May include exposure limits
- Discusses engineering controls such as fume hoods
- Covers personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, respirator, etc.

Physical & Chemical Properties

- States if characteristics such as odor, appearance, physical state, pH, vapor pressure, vapor density, etc. are applicable to the substance

Stability & Reactivity

- Discusses precautions (about chemical stability, incompatibilities, hazardous decomposition, polymerization, etc.) to prevent unstable chemicals from forming new hazardous chemicals or causing an explosion in uninitiated reactions

Toxicological Information

- Information is addressed at medical or occupational health specialists
- Discusses data used to determine the hazards described in the “Hazard Identification” section
- May address carcinogenicity, reproductive effects, target organ effects, etc.

Ecological Information

- Discusses the impact if the substance is released into the environment

Disposal Considerations

- Provides important information for proper disposal or recycling

Transport Information

- Provides basic packaging/labeling shipping information (hazard class, ID number, etc.)

Regulatory Information

- Lists the regulating quantities and agencies

Other Information

- Includes other important information, such as SDS revision and references

Nearly all SDSs are available electronically via the EH&S web site <https://ehs.ucop.edu/sds/#/> or on the web site of the manufacturer/ distributor. Contact the EH&S at (951) 827-5528 for additional assistance.