



Title: Understanding Safety Data Sheets (SDS) in Construction

Objective: To raise awareness of the importance of safety data sheets (SDS) in construction and promote proper handling and use of hazardous materials to ensure worker safety.

Introduction: Safety data sheets (SDS), formerly known as material safety data sheets (MSDS), provide vital information about hazardous chemicals used in construction. Understanding and following the information provided in SDS can help prevent accidents, injuries, and health hazards on the job site.

Key Points:

1. **What is an SDS?** A safety data sheet (SDS) is a document that contains detailed information about the properties, hazards, handling procedures, and emergency response measures for hazardous chemicals. SDS are provided by chemical manufacturers, importers, or distributors and must be readily accessible to workers.
2. **Contents of an SDS:** SDS typically include sections such as product identification, hazard identification, composition and information on ingredients, first aid measures, fire-fighting measures, accidental release measures, handling and storage, exposure controls/personal protection, physical and chemical properties, stability and reactivity, toxicological information, ecological information, disposal considerations, and regulatory information.
3. **Where is the Right To Know Center?** The Safety Data Sheets are stored in the company Right To Know center located in the SDS tab at www.georgebunker.com.
4. **Hazard Identification:** Pay close attention to the hazard identification section of the SDS, which provides information on the potential health, physical, and environmental hazards associated with the chemical. Understand the specific risks posed by the chemical and take appropriate precautions to minimize exposure.
5. **Exposure Controls/Personal Protection:** The exposure controls/personal protection section of the SDS outlines recommended engineering controls, such as ventilation systems or containment measures, as well as personal protective equipment (PPE) required for safe handling of the chemical. Follow these recommendations to prevent exposure and protect yourself and others.
6. **Handling and Storage:** Follow the handling and storage guidelines provided in the SDS to minimize the risk of accidents and spills. Store hazardous chemicals in designated areas away from incompatible materials, heat sources, and ignition sources. Use appropriate containment measures, such as secondary containment or spill kits, to prevent leaks and spills.
7. **Emergency Response:** Familiarize yourself with the emergency response measures outlined in the SDS, including procedures for spills, leaks, fires, and exposure incidents. Know the location of emergency equipment, such as spill kits, fire extinguishers, and eye wash stations, and how to use them effectively.
8. **Training and Education:** Ensure all workers who handle or work with hazardous chemicals receive training on SDS interpretation, chemical hazards, and safe handling practices. Provide access to SDS and encourage workers to review them before using any hazardous chemical.



9. **Updating SDS:** SDS should be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect changes in chemical composition, hazards, or regulatory requirements. Ensure you have the most current version of the SDS for each chemical used on the job site.

Conclusion: Safety data sheets (SDS) are essential tools for understanding the hazards associated with hazardous chemicals in construction. By familiarizing yourself with SDS and following the information provided, you can protect yourself and your colleagues from accidents and injuries on the job site.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why are safety data sheets (SDS) important in construction?
2. What information can be found in the hazard identification section of an SDS?
3. How can you use SDS to minimize the risks associated with hazardous chemicals?

Stay Safe and Review SDS Regularly!