

SAFETY TALK

Data

Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter

May 2015

Safety Data Sheets

OSHA's hazard communication standard, also known as the "employee right-to-know" standard, is designed to help protect workers from the hazards of exposures to harmful chemicals. An important section of that standard is a requirement that we maintain Safety Data Sheets, or SDS's, for all hazardous products we use on the job. Stony Brook keeps a listing of Safety Data Sheets on the EH&S website at www.stonybrook.edu/ehs

Important information you can find on a SDS:

- Name of the product (should match what is on the container label)
- Name and contact information for the manufacturer or importer of the product
- A list of the hazardous ingredient(s) that make up the product (often listed by percentages)
- Permissible exposure limits established by OSHA and other agencies that specify how much chemical exposure is considered safe and unsafe
- Specific information about the health hazards associated with the product, including routes of entry into your body, the effects of the chemical(s) on your various organs, and the symptoms of overexposure
- Specific information about the fire & reactivity hazards of the product, as well as the physical characteristics (smell, color . . .) of the product
- Recommendations for personal protective equipment to wear when using the product
- Emergency and first aid procedures to treat over-exposures

The information available on a SDS can be overwhelming at times, and some of it may not seem important to you. But this information is very important to you and Stony Brook University, as we use this to decide what procedures and protective equipment to use on the job. So let your supervisor know ASAP if you cannot find the SDS for any product on the jobsite, because not having a SDS is unsafe, and could lead to the company receiving citations from OSHA. So take the time to review the SDS for any product that you need additional information about, because as the name of the OSHA standard implies, you have a "right to know"!

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Department:	
Supervisor (please print): Supervisor Signature:	

Environmental Health and Safety

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Supervisor must perform safety talk for the noted month and ensure all employees sign off on this form.. Completed form is to be kept on file by department.

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