

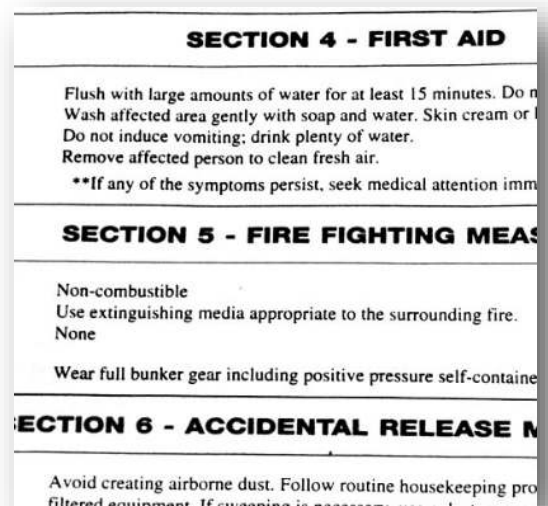
Safe Understanding a Safety Data Sheet

Chemical manufacturers and importers are responsible for providing Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for hazardous chemicals. These 16-section forms provide information on a chemical's hazards, properties and how to handle them safely. SDS should be readily available to all employees in the event of an emergency.

Understanding the Sections

Safety Data Sheets have 16 sections:

1. Identification: the product name, recommended uses, and supplier contact information.
2. Hazard identification: the hazards of the chemical and the warning information for those hazards.
3. Composition: the ingredient(s) contained in the chemical, including impurities and stabilizing additives.
4. First-Aid Measures: initial care given to an individual exposed to the chemical.
5. Fire-Fighting Measures: recommendations for fighting a fire caused by the chemical
6. Accidental Release Measures: the response to spills, leaks or releases, including containment and clean-up.
7. Handling and Storage: safe handling practices and conditions for safe storage.
8. Exposure Controls: exposure limits, engineering controls and PPE that can minimize exposures.
9. Physical and Chemical Properties: properties of the chemical include appearance, odor and flash point.
10. Stability and Reactivity: conditions where a chemical is stable and interactions with other chemicals.
11. Toxicological Information: routes of exposure and potential health effect information.
12. Ecological Information: the chemical's impact on the environment.
13. Disposal Considerations: guidance on how to properly dispose, recycle or reclaim used chemicals and containers.
14. Transport Information: classification information for shipping and transport by road, rail, air or sea.
15. Regulatory Information: EH&S regulations for the chemical that aren't indicated elsewhere in the SDS.
16. Other Information: SDS preparation or revision date and other useful information about the chemical.



Using the SDS in an Emergency

In the event of an emergency, knowing where your SDS are kept and understanding the layout of the SDS can save crucial time. Knowing which SDS sections will be the most useful in an emergency (4, 5 and 6) may be useful in minimizing damages and injuries.