



SAFETY DATA SHEETS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – HAZARD COMMUNICATION

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What is a Safety Data Sheet (SDS)? A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is a comprehensive document that provides information about the potential hazards of a chemical substance or mixture, as well as instructions for its safe handling, storage, and disposal. SDSs are essential for ensuring the safety of workers who may be exposed to hazardous materials in the workplace.

Why are SDSs Important?

- **Safety Information:** SDSs contain detailed information about the physical, chemical, and toxicological properties of a substance, helping workers understand its potential hazards.
- **Emergency Response:** In the event of a spill, leak, or exposure, SDSs provide guidance on how to respond safely and effectively.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Compliance with regulatory requirements, such as OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS), requires that SDSs be readily available for all hazardous chemicals used in the workplace.

Key Sections of an SDS:

1. **Identification:** Includes the product name, manufacturer information, and emergency contact details.
2. **Hazard(s) Identification:** Describes the hazards associated with the chemical, including physical, health, and environmental hazards.
3. **Composition/Information on Ingredients:** Lists the chemical ingredients and their concentration in the product.
4. **First-Aid Measures:** Provides instructions for responding to exposure, including first-aid procedures and symptoms of exposure.
5. **Fire-Fighting Measures:** Describes appropriate firefighting techniques and hazards associated with fire or explosions.
6. **Accidental Release Measures:** Provides guidance on responding to spills, leaks, or releases of the chemical.



7. **Handling and Storage:** Offers recommendations for safe handling, storage, and disposal practices.
8. **Exposure Controls/Personal Protection:** Provides information on exposure limits, engineering controls, and personal protective equipment (PPE) required for safe handling.
9. **Physical and Chemical Properties:** Lists key physical and chemical properties of the substance, such as appearance, odor, and flammability.
10. **Stability and Reactivity:** Describes conditions to avoid (e.g., heat, light) and incompatible materials that may react with the chemical.
11. **Toxicological Information:** Provides information on the potential health effects of exposure, including acute and chronic toxicity.
12. **Ecological Information:** Describes the environmental impact of the chemical and any precautions for environmental protection.
13. **Disposal Considerations:** Provides guidance on safe disposal methods and any regulatory requirements for disposal.
14. **Transport Information:** Offers guidance on safe transportation of the chemical, including labeling and packaging requirements.
15. **Regulatory Information:** Lists relevant regulatory information and compliance requirements.
16. **Other Information:** Includes additional information, such as date of preparation and revision of the SDS.

How to Use SDSs:

1. **Access:** Ensure that all employees know how to obtain an SDS. They can be found at www.perinton.org -> Departments -> Safety and Security or via the quick QR code posted throughout the workplace.
2. **Review:** Familiarize yourself with the hazards, safe handling procedures, and emergency response measures outlined in the SDS before working with the chemical.
3. **Training:** Participate in training on how to read and interpret SDSs, including understanding hazard symbols, exposure limits, and emergency response procedures.
4. **Update:** Regularly review and update SDSs to ensure they reflect the most current information and comply with regulatory requirements.

Remember: Safety is everyone's responsibility. If you have any questions or concerns about a chemical or its SDS, don't hesitate to ask your supervisor or safety officer for assistance.