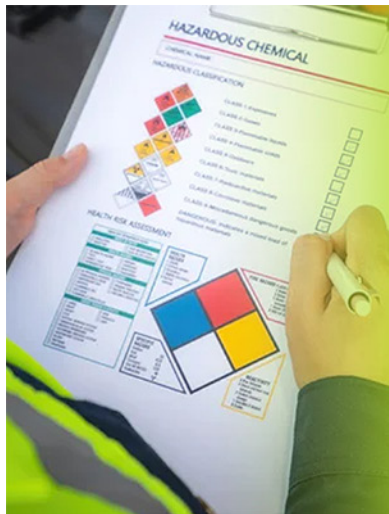




HAZARD COMMUNICATION: SAFETY DATA SHEETS



Talking Points:

Every employee who works with or around hazardous chemicals should know how to access and use an SDS. Understanding this information before handling a chemical can prevent injuries, illnesses, and environmental incidents. If you don't know the hazards of a chemical, stop and review the SDS before using it.

Know Where SDSs Are Located

Employees must have immediate access to SDSs during their work shift.

Remember:

- Know where SDSs are stored.
- Know how to access electronic SDS systems if used.
- SDSs must be available without barriers or delays.
- Ask your supervisor if you are unsure how to locate an SDS.

Understand the Purpose of an SDS

An SDS provides critical information to help employees:

- Identify chemical hazards.
- Select proper PPE.
- Handle and store chemicals safely.
- Respond to spills and leaks.
- Provide appropriate first aid.
- Prepare for emergencies involving hazardous substances.

Never assume a chemical is safe simply because you've used it before.

SDSs Follow a Standard 16-Section Format

All SDSs use the same standardized format, making information easier to find.

Key sections include:

Section 1 – Identification

- Product name
- Manufacturer information
- Recommended uses

Section 2 – Hazard Identification

- Hazard classifications
- Signal words
- Hazard statements
- Pictograms

Section 4 – First Aid Measures

- Treatment for exposure by inhalation, skin contact, eye contact, or ingestion

Section 5 – Firefighting Measures

- Suitable extinguishing methods
- Special firefighting hazards

Section 6 – Accidental Release Measures

- Spill cleanup procedures
- Personal precautions

Section 7 – Handling and Storage

- Safe handling practices
- Storage requirements

Section 8 – Exposure Controls/PPE

- Required protective equipment
- Exposure limits

Understanding these sections helps employees quickly find the information they need.

Review PPE Requirements Before Use

The SDS identifies required PPE. Always wear the PPE specified for the chemical and task.

Never Mix Chemicals Unless Authorized

Mixing chemicals can create:

- Toxic gases
- Fires or explosions
- Dangerous chemical reactions

Always follow approved procedures and review SDS information before combining any chemicals.

Report Missing or Outdated SDSs

Notify your supervisor immediately so the issue can be corrected.

Remember: Safety Data Sheets are your primary resource for chemical safety information. Knowing how to find and use an SDS can help protect you, your coworkers, and the workplace from chemical-related injuries and incidents.

Discussion Questions

1. Where are SDSs located in our facility?
2. What information can be found in Section 4 of an SDS?
3. What PPE is commonly required for chemicals used in your work area?
4. What should you do if an SDS is missing?
5. What hazards could result from mixing chemicals without authorization?

For more safety tips and courses, visit ndsc.org

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