

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: Hazard Communication – Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's)

[Reference 1910.1200(g) / 1926.59]

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 Material Safety Data Sheets, or MSDS's, for all hazardous products we use on the job.

Material safety data sheets are developed by the manufacturer or importer of all hazardous products. Some MSDS's are a single page long, and some are several pages long; there is no standard format for how they have to look. Our company keeps our MSDS's _____, and you can access them any time. Here's some information you can find on a product's MSDS:

- 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 an MSDS can be overwhelming at times, and some of it may not seem important to you. But this information is very important to you and the company, 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 MSDS for any product on the jobsite, because not having an MSDS is unsafe, and could lead to the company receiving citations from OSHA.

So take the time to review the MSDS for any product that you need additional information about, because as the name of the OSHA standard implies, you have a "right to know"!

Any question or comment about these OSHA requirements for MSDS's?

Please be sure to sign-in on the training certification form.

OSHA SAFETY TRAINING CERTIFICATION FORM

Toolbox Topic Covered: Hazard Communication – MSDS's

Date: _____

Company Name: _____

Training led by: _____

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE
