



Safety Matters

Talking Points for Clients of Proudfit Insurance

Proudfit Insurance: Your workplace safety partner

Using Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

When working with chemicals, you must be familiar with a material's properties so you can take the proper safety precautions. This is accomplished by using Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

Your First Stop: The SDS

SDS protect you from hazardous materials in the workplace by providing information about a substance's properties, precautions for safe handling, use and storage, potential health hazards and first aid procedures.

Before you begin working with a new chemical, always reference the SDS.

The easiest way to look up a material is by the name listed on the product's label. The SDS information may look a bit confusing at first, so here's how the information is typically grouped:

1. Identification
2. Hazard identification
3. Composition/information on ingredients
4. First-aid measures
5. Fire-fighting measures
6. Accidental release measures
7. Handling and storage
8. Exposure controls/personal protection
9. Physical and chemical properties
10. Stability and reactivity
11. Toxicological information
12. Ecological information
13. Disposal considerations

14. Transport information
15. Regulatory information
16. Other information

When reviewing an SDS, scan it for safety precautions, health effects, storage, specific cautions and disposal instructions before using any chemical for the first time.

In Case of Emergency

An SDS is an excellent source of information to consult when a person is exposed to a hazardous product by inhalation, spillage, etc. It's your job to learn about a material's hazardous properties before an emergency occurs. What if a chemical splashes into a co-worker's eyes? You'll want to know how to help immediately, rather than waste valuable time by having to track down the SDS for first aid recommendations.

Remember, while instructions on the SDS can be helpful in emergencies, they do not replace those of a health care professional. If an incident does occur, make sure to contact the appropriate medical personnel immediately.

Always review the SDS for every hazardous material before its use. Then, take the necessary safety precautions.

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