

Contact Safety

JULY 2016

Mine Safety & Training Section

Safety Data Sheets

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are being replaced by Safety Data Sheets (SDS). The deadline for transition is June 1, 2016. The transition includes any hazardous materials or hazardous chemicals currently produced by and shipped out for commerce by your mine site. If you only receive hazardous materials or hazardous chemicals for use at your mine, you can continue to use the MSDS. However, the SDS is improved and easier to use as explained below and something you will soon see. OSHA recently published an update to its Hazard Communication Standard incorporating the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). MSHA has agreed to the use of SDS in the mining community according to OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.1200 (77 F.R. 17574). Refer to MSHA PROGRAM POLICY LETTER NO. P13-IV-01, EFFECTIVE DATE: August 13, 2013. Many hazardous chemicals and hazardous materials used in the United States mining industry come from foreign countries. This is why the SDS was developed.

Previously, Material Safety Data Sheets were in any format a manufacturer chose. Important information could be hard to find. Safety Data Sheets will be in a standard format making it easier to find important information.



This is desirable in an emergency situation when specific data is required. According to an OSHA Fact Sheet: the new SDS will cover over 43 million workers in more than 5 million workplaces across the United States, the SDS are estimated to prevent 500 workplace injuries and illnesses and 43 fatalities annually, the SDS will also benefit miners by improving quality and consistency of hazard information, enhance worker comprehension of hazards and provide workers quicker and more efficient access to information.

Title 30, Part 47 of the Federal Regulations requires that mine operators to do the following to ensure the health and safety of miners whether using an MSDS or an SDS: maintain a hazard communication program detailing the plans in place for safe handling of chemicals; maintaining a written chemical inventory of every chemical at the mine to which miners are exposed; maintaining proper labels and warning signs associated with hazardous chemicals and training employees on chemical hazards and necessary precautions. SDS should make these requirements easier to implement when your mine receives hazardous materials and hazardous chemicals.

SDS will have a format with 16 sections in strict order. The sections 1 thru 16 are: identification of manufacturer or distributor, hazard identification, composition of ingredients, first-aid measures, accidental release measures, handling and storage, exposure controls/personal protection, physical and chemical properties, stability and reactivity, toxicological information, disposal considerations, transportation information, regulatory information and date of last revision.

All mine personnel should review and become familiar with the new SDS since new hazards or changes in handling and storage recommendations for hazardous materials and chemicals may be included. Some MSHA MSDS requirements for the handling and storage procedures of these chemicals and materials may be different than OSHA procedures on the SDS. Each mine must investigate handling and storage procedures to ensure MSHA compliance.

Transition from MSDS to SDS may seem like an overwhelming task, but it will be worth it in the end. Remember, the health and safety of your miners is the number one goal.



QUIZ

If there is any specific topics you would like to learn more about please write on line below.

1. MSDS stands for _____

_____.

2. _____
_____ will replace
MSDS when required.

3. **T or F** SDS will have 16
sections in strict order.

Employee: _____ Date: _____

Mine/Company: _____

Address: _____

4. **T or F** SDS will be easier to
use than MSDS.

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

5. **T or F** The health and safety of
your miners is the number one
goal.