

HAZCOM

Signal Words

 **DANGER**

 **WARNING**

 **CAUTION**

Danger - more serious hazard; If the hazard is not avoided, death or serious injury **WILL** occur.

Warning - less serious hazard; If the hazard is not avoided, death or serious injury **CAN** occur.

Caution - minor hazard
If the hazard is not avoided, minor to moderate injury **COULD** occur.

If an employee puts a chemical from the primary container into a secondary container, that container does not need to be relabeled if the employee uses it immediately. If the container is left unattended or is used by an employee on another shift, it must be relabeled with the required information.



In 2012, OSHA adopted the UN's system for standardizing how information regarding hazardous chemicals is communicated.

Safety Data Sheets are now required to be provided to the customer for every hazardous chemical. The SDS contains 16 sections and covers information such as the scientific details, manufacturer information, exposure risks, and transportation requirements. The following is a review of the information available in the SDS.

Section 2 – Hazard classification: identifies the type of hazard, whether physical (ex. Flammable liquid), health (ex. Skin irritant), or environmental (ex. Acute aquatic toxicity) along with the severity. *Signal word:* Danger, Warning, or Caution. *Pictograms:* allows for quick identification of the hazard associated.

Section 4 – First Aid Requirements: describes the immediate care that should be given by untrained responders to an individual who has been exposed to the chemical. Consists of necessary first-aid instructions by relevant routes of exposure (inhalation, skin and eye contact, and ingestion), description of the most important symptoms/effects, and any acute or delayed symptoms, and any advised immediate medical care/special treatment.

Section 5 – Firefighting: required extinguishers, PPE for fire fighters, specific reactions or hazardous combustions associated with fire.

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Section 6 – Accidental Release: recommendations on the appropriate response to spills, leaks, releases including emergency procedures, evacuations, preventing contamination, experts needed, materials and procedures for containment, and cleanup.

Section 8 – Exposure Controls and PPE: Includes the OSHA Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs), Threshold Limit Values, & any other limits established by the manufacturer; engineering controls (ex. Ventilation requirements); recommended PPE to prevent exposure, and requirements for the PPE (ex. PVC or nitrile gloves).

Section 9 – Chemical and Physical Properties: Appearance (physical state, color, etc.); Upper/lower flammability or explosive limits; Odor; Vapor pressure; pH; Relative density; Melting point/freezing point; Solubility; Boiling point; Flash point; • Auto-ignition temperature; Evaporation rate; Decomposition temperature; Flammability (solid, gas); Viscosity.

Section 11 – Toxicological Info (Symptoms of Exposure): Information on the likely routes of exposure (inhalation, ingestion, skin and eye contact); delayed, immediate, or chronic effects from short- and long-term exposure; Description of the symptoms associated with exposure to the chemical including symptoms from the lowest to the most severe exposure.