

What's in a Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

The standard 16-section format · 29 CFR 1910.1200(g)

UPDATED TO THE 2024 STANDARD · GHS REV 7

About this reference

Every hazardous chemical comes with an SDS written by its manufacturer. Since 2012, all SDSs follow the same 16-section format, so the same information is always in the same place. Keep this page in your binder so workers can navigate any SDS quickly. You don't create SDSs — you collect them from your suppliers and keep them accessible.

Section	What it contains
1. Identification	Product identifier; manufacturer name, address, phone; emergency number; recommended use
2. Hazard(s) identification	Classification, signal word, pictograms, hazard & precautionary statements
3. Composition / ingredients	Chemical ingredients and concentrations; trade-secret claims
4. First-aid measures	Symptoms/effects and required first aid by route of exposure
5. Fire-fighting measures	Suitable extinguishing media; hazards from fire
6. Accidental release measures	Spill response, containment, and cleanup
7. Handling and storage	Safe handling, storage conditions, incompatibilities
8. Exposure controls / PPE	Exposure limits (PELs/TLVs), engineering controls, PPE
9. Physical & chemical properties	Appearance, odor, flash point, pH, boiling point, etc.
10. Stability and reactivity	Stability, conditions to avoid, incompatible materials
11. Toxicological information	Routes of exposure, symptoms, acute and chronic effects
12. Ecological information *	Environmental effects
13. Disposal considerations *	Safe disposal guidance
14. Transport information *	Shipping classifications
15. Regulatory information *	Other regulations
16. Other information	Date of preparation or last revision

* Sections 12–15 appear on every SDS for consistency, but OSHA does not enforce them — they fall under other agencies (EPA, DOT). OSHA enforces Sections 1–11 and 16.