

New Requirements from OSHA

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) Are Changing

Manufacturers and Distributors Must Comply in 2015

What is changing?

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) now requires Hazardous Chemical reporting be done via a uniform Safety Data Sheet (SDS) rather than the previously used Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

Why did OSHA make this change?

OSHA standardized the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) in order to better align with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) used globally.

What is a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)?

MSDSs are documents that travel with or ahead of hazardous chemical shipments, warning users of the specific dangers of such products and guidance on their safe handling, storage and disposal. Evaluating chemical hazards and producing MSDSs and labels for downstream users are two of the key responsibilities chemical manufacturers and distributors have under the HCS.

What is a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) sheet?

OSHA's adoption of GHS mandates the use of a single format for safety data sheets, featuring 16 sections in a strict ordering. This change will rename the Material Safety Data Sheets to simply Safety Data Sheets, or SDSs. In fact, the GHS SDS format is nearly identical to the ANSI Standard 16 section MSDS which was previously being used— with a couple of modifications.

What are the key changes between an MSDS and SDS sheet?

The three major areas of change are in hazard classification, labels, and the structure of SDS (formerly known as MSDS).

- **Hazard classification:** The definitions of hazard have been changed to provide specific criteria for classification of health and physical hazards, as well as classification of mixtures. These specific criteria will help to ensure that evaluations of hazardous effects are consistent across manufacturers, and that labels and safety data sheets are more accurate as a result.
- **Labels:** Chemical manufacturers and importers will be required to provide a label that includes a harmonized signal word, pictogram, and hazard statement for each hazard class and category. Precautionary statements must also be provided.
- **Safety Data Sheets:** Will now have a specified 16-section format.

What do I need to know about the new SDS 16-section format?

The SDS is used to communicate information on the hazardous nature of each hazardous chemical to downstream users.

- **Sections 1-8** contain general information about the chemical, identification, hazards, composition, safe handling practices, and emergency control measures.

Key Takeaways

- **Compliance Dates:**
 - **Manufacturers by June 2015**
 - **Distributors by December 2015**
- **Safety Data Sheets (SDS)**
 - Previously an MSDS
 - New specified 16-section format
 - **Devices Are Exempt**
 - Raw materials and other chemicals carried by distributors are impacted.
 - Distributors must ensure containers of hazardous chemicals have an updated SDS provided downstream
- **Hazard Classification**
 - Hazard definition has been changed



- **Sections 9-11 and 16** contain other technical and scientific information, such as physical and chemical properties, stability and reactivity information, toxicological information, exposure control information, and other information including the date of preparation or last revision. The SDS must also state that no applicable information was found when the preparer does not find relevant information for any required element.
- **Sections 12-15** are non-mandatory and will not be enforced by OSHA. They are listed to be consistent with the UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

For more information, see [OSHA's Brief on SDSs](#).

What types of products are affected?

Raw materials that are fluids or particles. Specific examples of these products in the healthcare setting can be found on the [OSHA website](#).

What about Medical Devices?

Medical devices are exempt - [see [29 CFR 1910.1200\(c\)](#)]. Specifically, medical devices are considered to be "articles" as defined by the HCS, therefore not requiring an SDS. Products manufactured or fabricated into an "article" are typically whole units that do not and cannot pose a risk in that they cannot be ingested, inhaled, or absorbed into the body.

When do manufacturers have to comply with the new standards?

Manufacturers have until June 1, 2015 to comply with the new standard.

What should manufacturers do?

If they have not already done so, manufacturers should begin transitioning to the new GHS required formatting for safety data sheets. By June 1, 2015 manufacturers should have completed their reclassification of chemicals and be shipping GHS formatted SDSs and labels with their shipments.

When do distributors have to comply with the new standards?

Distributors have until December 1, 2015 to convert to the new HCS and use SDSs for shipping hazardous products.

What is the impact on distributors?

Distributors have to ensure that the containers of hazardous chemicals are correctly labeled when shipped and that SDSs are provided downstream:

1. With the first shipment of the chemical to that customer; or
2. When the SDSs are updated¹.

Are there penalties for not complying?

Penalties for non compliance range from \$100-\$500,000 in monetary fines. Citation and penalty procedures may differ somewhat in states with their own occupational safety and health programs².

¹ <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3695.pdf>

² <https://www.osha.gov/doc/outreachtraining/htmlfiles/introsha.html>



Additional Information and Resources

OSHA Material

www.osha.gov

[OSHA's Brief on SDSs](#)

[OSHA's Guide to GHS](#)

What is OSHA?

OSHA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor. Congress established the agency under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The agency is in charge of setting and enforcing standards that ensure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women through training, outreach, education and assistance.

Why did OSHA take this action?

OSHA adopted changes to the standard safety sheet documentation required for hazardous chemicals that impact the supply chain. Specifically, the changes align the U.S. with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification of Chemicals (GHS).

What is OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS)?

HCS is an OSHA regulatory standard which ensures that the hazards of all chemicals produced or imported are evaluated, and that information concerning their hazards is transmitted to employers and employees³.

What is the Globally Harmonized System of Classification of Chemicals (GHS)?

The GHS is a system for standardizing and harmonizing the classification and labeling of chemicals. The GHS is an internationally recognized approach to:

- Defining health, physical and environmental hazards of chemicals;
- Creating classification processes that use available data on chemicals for comparison with the defined hazard criteria; and
- Communicating hazard information, as well as protective measures, on labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS).⁴

³ https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=PREAMBLES&p_id=931

⁴ <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html#1.1>

