

MSDS sections and information

The information in MSDSs prepared according to the new voluntary ANSI standard always appears in the same 16 sections, organized around four key issues that address what people need to know about chemicals.

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“What is the material and what do I need to know immediately in an Emergency?”

Section 1. Chemical product and company identification

- Links the MSDS to the material
- Identifies the supplier of the MSDS
- Identifies a source for more information

Section 2. Composition/information on ingredients

- Lists the OSHA hazardous components
- May also list significant non-hazardous components
- May also include additional information about components (e.g., exposure guidelines)

Section 3. Hazards identification, including emergency overview

- May provide emergency overview
- Provides information on the potential adverse human health effects and symptoms that might result from reasonably foreseeable use and misuse of the material.

“What should I do if a hazardous situation occurs?”

Section 4. First aid measures

- Provides instructions to be taken if accidental exposure requires immediate treatment
- May also include instructions to medical professionals

Section 5. Fire fighting measures

- Provides basic fire-fighting guidance, including appropriate extinguishing media
- Describes other fire and explosive properties useful for avoiding and fighting fires involving the material, such as flash point or explosive limits

Section 6. Accidental release measures

- Describes actions to be taken to minimize the adverse effects of an accidental spill, leak or release of the material.

“How can I prevent hazardous situations from occurring?”

Section 7. Handling and storage

- Provides information on appropriate practices for safe handling and storage

Section 8. Exposure controls/personal protection

- Provides information on practices, or equipment, or both, that are useful in minimizing worker exposure
- May also include exposure guidelines
- Provides guidance on personal protective equipment

Section 9. Physical and chemical properties

- Provides additional data that can be used to help characterize the material and design safe work practices

Section 10. Stability and reactivity

- Describes the conditions to be avoided or other materials that may cause a reaction that would change the intrinsic stability of the material.

“Is there any other useful information about this material?”

Section 11. Toxicological information

- May be used to provide background toxicological information of the material, its compounds, or both

Section 12. Ecological information

- May be used to provide information on the effects the material may have on plants or animals and on the material’s environmental fate

Section 13. Disposal considerations

- May provide information that is useful in determining appropriate disposal measures

Section 14. Transport information

- May provide basic shipping classification information

Section 15. Regulatory information

- May be used to provide any additional information on regulations affecting the material

Section 16. Other information

- May be used to provide any additional information