READING SAFETY DATA SHEETS

A Safety Data Sheet--the SDS-- is designed to tell you everything you need to know to use a chemical safely. Although there are many different types of SDSs, each must include the eight parts listed below.

**CHEMICAL NAME**
- The name on the label.
- A date the SDS was prepared.
- Name and address of the manufacturer.
- Phone number for emergencies.

**HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS/ CHEMICAL IDENTITY**
- Names of dangerous substances in the chemical.
- Safe exposure limits such as PEL (Permissible Exposure Limit) or TVL (Threshold Value Limit).
- Common names for the chemical.

**PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**
- Boiling and melting temperatures.
- Evaporation rate (percent volatile).
- How easily it dissolves.
- How heavy it is--so you know whether it will sink, float or dissolve in water.

**FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA**
- The “flash point”--the lowest temperature when it could catch fire.
- Whether it’s flammable or combustible.
- The best way to put out a fire involving the chemical.

**REACTIVITY**
- Conditions that can cause it to burn, explode or release dangerous vapors.
- Substances that react with it.

**HEALTH HAZARDS**
- The dangers of inhaling or touching it.
- First aid procedures to follow.
- Dangers for people with medical conditions.

**USAGE, HANDLING & STORAGE**
- How to clean up a spill or leak.
- How to handle, store and dispose of the chemical.

**SPECIAL PROTECTION AND PRECAUTIONS**
- Personal protective equipment that should be used.
- Other equipment for working with the chemical.
- Special procedures.
- Signs that might be posted.
- Information not covered in other sections.

For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at (800) 252-5059, ext. 1387 or 1384.

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