

APPENDIX B

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET (MSDS)

HOW TO USE A MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

The format and quality of material safety data sheets may vary greatly from one manufacturer to another, but all of the following material will be covered on every MSDS.

Section I - Material Identification

The first section identifies the material and the supplier. The material name on the MSDS must match the name on the container. If the material has more than one name, each will be listed. The chemical formula may also be given. The supplier's name, address, and an emergency telephone number are also listed in this section.

Section II - Ingredients and Hazards

Section 2 lists the individual hazardous chemicals in the product and their relative percentage of concentration. If exposure limits have been established, they will be shown for each chemical.

Section III - Physical Data

Physical data typically includes a material's boiling point, solubility in water, viscosity, specific gravity, melting point, evaporation rate, molecular weight, etc., as well as the appearance and odor of the material.

Section IV - Fire and Explosion Data

Section 4 of the MSDS will indicate what protective clothing or respiratory equipment should be used by fire fighters and what type of extinguishing materials are best for use when fighting a fire involving the material.

Section V - Reactivity Data

The information found in Section 5 will vary greatly from one MSDS to another because of the many different ways that materials may react with one another. The information presented should focus on the materials and circumstances that could be most hazardous when combined with the material covered by the MSDS.

Section VI - Health Hazard Information

Section 6 of the MSDS must describe all known routes of entry of the chemical into the body, including eye contact, skin contact, inhalation, and ingestion. Acute (immediate) and chronic (long-term) effects must be stated. If the material is carcinogenic, that fact must be stated. Medical and first-aid treatments for accidental exposure will be described.

Section VII - Spill, Leak, and Disposal Procedures

Safe work practices to be followed in the event of an accident with a particular material are described. Methods and procedures for proper handling of spills, leaks, and disposal of wastes are covered.

Section VIII - Special Protection Information

Methods for reducing exposure to a particular hazardous material are described. The methods may include ventilation requirements, breathing apparatus, as well as protective clothing such as gloves, aprons, and safety glasses.

Section IX - Special Precautions and Comments

Safe storage and handling of the material are described. The types of labels or markings for containers are described, and particular Department of Transportation (DOT) policies for handling the material are listed.