



Instructor Guide

MSDS

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is a technical bulletin that provides information on a specific hazardous product, including:

- hazardous ingredients
- hazards (fire, explosion, reactivity)
- health effects of exposure (acute and chronic)
- hazard evaluation related to storage and handling
- measures to protect workers
- emergency procedures

This information makes it a valuable reference source of health and safety information for workers.

Demonstration and Discussion Topics

- Discuss** the purpose of MSDS and the importance of knowing how to read an MSDS.
- Distribute** the student handout.
- Use** the student handout as your discussion guide.
- Review** the MSDS sample sheets in the student handout. Briefly describe the information provided under the main headings.
- Emphasize** the students' responsibility to read and understand the MSDS before using the product.
- Advise** the students that, if the date on the MSDS is more than 3 years old or the MSDS is missing, the worker should ask the supervisor or manager to get a new one.
- Inform** the students that some employers use an electronic database to store MSDSs. In this case, it is essential that workers are trained in accessing such a database to retrieve an MSDS.
- Tour the shop** with the students, pointing out MSDS.
- Discuss** the attitude that "it won't happen to me". Remind them that not reading and understanding an MSDS can lead to serious injuries.

Resource

- WHMIS at Work
http://worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/by_topic/assets/pdf/whmis.pdf