

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET (MSDS)

WHAT IS AN MSDS?

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is a reference document that provides crucial safety data about a specific product. In addition to identifying potentially hazardous ingredients, the MSDS provides cautions and warnings about the potential side effects of improper use, and describes first-aid or emergency procedures.

In some cases, the MSDS gives guidelines for safe disposal and spill control for different chemical substances. Operational guidelines for use of a specific chemical in your shop are provided by an instruction sheet, not an MSDS. If you have employees, you are required by law to keep an MSDS on file for every product you use in your operation and make it available to any employee. The "Hazard Communication" law (CFR 1910.1200) requires that employers provide their employees with certain information and training about the chemicals they are exposed to in the workplace, and the MSDS is an integral part of that training process. This law also contains other regulations to safeguard the health and well-being of your employees. It's your obligation to learn about the requirements of this legislation. As more becomes known about the effects of different chemicals, it's important to stay informed and take reasonable precautions to protect yourself and everyone who works with you from unnecessary hazards.

Material Safety Data Sheets are prepared in accordance with federally established standards for hazard communication. Although the technical language of an MSDS may be a little intimidating for the layperson, it's an excellent idea to familiarize yourself with the information contained in these documents. You should be familiar with the safe handling, storage and disposal of any product you use, and the MSDS is an excellent source for this information.

FIRST AID & SPILL/DISPOSAL INFORMATION

The most crucial information on any MSDS is the first-aid, spill and waste disposal information. This section also explains precautions necessary to adequately protect anyone working with the named chemicals before a problem arises.

Because the MSDS is regulated by law and must contain all information that might have an impact on the health or well-being of anyone using the products described, it may, at times, seem overstated to a person who is familiar with the product. However, the preparer of the MSDS cannot assume any safety awareness on the part of the reader and does not know the circumstances of the reader's use of the product. Safety-conscious work practices are essential for maintaining a safe work environment.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SHIPPING CHARGES

What You Need to Know

The Department of Transportation (DOT) Emergency Response Communication Standard was established January 1, 1991. This federal regulation concerns the shipping of chemicals deemed hazardous by the DOT, and governs the labeling and handling of a variety of materials. Some products have restricted air shipping, and some carry restricted ground transportation charges; other products can be shipped by air but carry additional charges. All hazardous products are shipped according to a class/division. Hazardous shipping charges may apply. All shipping charges may change without notice; please inquire about exact charges when ordering.

Please Note: These regulations and shipping charges continue to be reviewed by the federal government. For the most up-to-date information, please inquire when you order.

Every MSDS contains the following vital information:

The image shows a sample MSDS form for 'RIO GRANDE SENG & FINDINGS'. The form is organized into several sections:

- SECTION 1 CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION:** Includes Material/Trade Name (EPOXY Resin), CAS No. (301-99-9), and Emergency Phone (800) 255-7424.
- SECTION 2 COMPOSITION, INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS:** A table with columns for Component, Epoxy Resin, %, CAS No. (25085-99-8), TLV (N.E.), PEL (N.E.), and H.E. (N.E.).
- SECTION 3 HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION:** Lists Flammability (0), Health (1), and Reactivity (1). It also includes Primary Routes of Exposure (Inhalation, ingestion, skin and eye contact) and Chronic Signs and Symptoms of Overexposure (None known).
- SECTION 4 FIRST AID MEASURES:** Provides instructions for Eye Contact (Flush continuously with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes), Skin Contact (Wash affected area with mild soap and water), and Inhalation (Move to fresh air).
- SECTION 5 FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES:** Lists Flash Point (85°F (25°C)), Auto Ignition Temperature (Not available), and Extinguishing Media (Water spray, dry chemical, foam or carbon dioxide).
- SECTION 6 SPECIAL FIRE FIGHTING PRECAUTIONS:** States that fire fighters should wear full protective gear and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

The form also includes a footer with 'Page 1 of 1' and 'THE BELL GROUP' logo.

Name and Address: Identifies the company supplying the Material Safety Data Sheet for this product.

Product/Supplier Information: Gives the product name, order number and emergency contact information.

Ingredients/Exposure Limit Information: Lists all potentially hazardous ingredients. The ratings in this section can give medical personnel important toxicity information. The CAS# is a unique number assigned to a chemical. It is recognized worldwide, so the ingredients can be readily identified. The Threshold Limit Value (TLV) is the concentration a worker can be exposed to for eight hours, five days a week, without suffering ill effects. The Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) is a similar rating that gives the legal limit for exposure to a specific chemical. These ratings are expressed in parts per million in the air, or as milligrams per cubic meter of air.

Product Name: Identifies the product and order number at a glance for convenient filing of your MSDS.

Physical Properties: Gives important identifying information about the product. In the event of a large spill, this can help emergency personnel establish a containment plan.

Fire and Explosion Hazard Data: Offers important information about a product's flashpoint and the way a certain product may react to fire. It also lists specific fire-extinguishing media.

Reactivity Data: Contains vital information about the possible reactions between this product and other products in your shop.

Health Hazard Data: Lists the primary ways a person is exposed, the symptoms of over-exposure and first-aid procedures for eye contact, skin contact, inhalation and ingestion.

Precautions for Safe Handling and Use: Identifies actions to take for spills, handling wastes and storing the product. Also lists community right-to-know requirements.

Employee Protection Measures: Gives ventilation requirements and lists protective measures and equipment needed.

Please Note: Because this information is developed and supplied to us by many different manufacturers and distributors, not every MSDS will look the same.