

## Chapter 11

### MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS (MSDS)

See EHS MSDS Links at: <http://www.ehs.psu.edu/chem/msdsreq.html>

All chemicals at the university have material safety data sheets (MSDS) on file at EHS. Federal law requires that vendors of chemicals of all types make these sheets available to consumers. However, they are not required to send you this information, unless specifically requested. ALWAYS request that an MSDS be shipped when you order chemicals of any kind.

The MSDS contains vital information about flammability, reactivity and health effects from exposure, and other important physical and chemical characterization data. The required sections of the MSDS (and not necessarily in this order) include:

Product Identification	Composition (Ingredient) Information
Chemical Properties	Hazards Identification
Health Hazards	Fire and Explosion
First Aid	Exposure Control/Personal Protection
Fire Fighting Measures	Accidental Release
Stability & Reactivity	Toxicology
Disposal Considerations	Hazard Ratings

Though the information required to be present on an MSDS is regulated, the MSDS does not have a “standard format.” Therefore, it is imperative that you read MSDS very carefully to determine the most important information on each chemical. Examples of various MSDS with differing formats can be found in Appendix D.

You should read through the MSDS for all chemicals you will be using in your work. It is recommended that copies of MSDS be kept in a central location in the lab, work group, or department. Hard copy should be filed alphabetically, with all important information (name, CAS number, explosive or volatile conditions, special storage instructions, emergency exposure/containment procedures, etc.) highlighted for quick reference. When you bring a new chemical into your laboratory, you are responsible for reading the MSDS, noting exceptional information, and informing others in your lab or area about special health and safety risks associated with that chemical.

MSDS are available 24 hours a day on the EHS web site at: <http://www.ehs.psu.edu/chem/msdsreq.html>.