DETAILING HAZARDS - SAFETY DATA SHEETS FOR THE OIL, GAS AND CHEMICALS INDUSTRY
Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are in many regions, a legal requirement for all chemicals sold and transferred from party to party. Before or at the same time as a chemical is passed from supplier to purchaser an SDS must also be supplied. The information on the SDS details the potential hazards and handling requirements of a given product, as well as other information on the chemical’s properties. Intended for industry use, an SDS moves with the product from business-to-business within a supply chain to ensure the chemical in question is handled appropriately, safely and without any danger to the employees of a company. Each supplier is responsible for providing a completed SDS whenever it is needed for a given product. It is also likely that this will need to be done in the language of the country the product is being sold in. While an SDS explains hazards it is not a full risk assessment, instead it provides some of the information a purchasing organisation needs to perform such an assessment.

### ABOUT SAFETY DATA SHEETS

SDSs contain an extensive evaluation of a chemical product. They focus on potential hazards and information on how such hazards can be combated should the need arise, as well as composition and properties information that would inform a risk assessment. For example a REACH compliant SDS is dated and contains information under the following headings:

1. Identification of the substance/mixture and of the company/undertaking
2. Hazards identification
3. Composition/information on ingredients
4. First-aid measures
5. Fire-fighting measures
6. Accidental release measures
7. Handling and storage
8. Exposure controls/personal protection
9. Physical and chemical properties
10. Stability and reactivity
11. Toxicological information
12. Ecological information
13. Disposal considerations
14. Transport information
15. Regulatory information
16. Other information

The information required for other regulations may vary slightly but there is considerable cross-over in terms of the details required.

### REGULATIONS REQUIRING SAFETY DATA SHEETS

SDSs are needed to comply with the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulations in Europe, as well as ChinaREACH. Within these regulations the classification, labelling and packaging (CLP) of substances and mixtures are referred to with the requirements for each described. The EU also has specific CLP regulations, the most recently published of which came into force on 20th January 2009 with the objective of aligning the EU regulations to the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). Subsequently, the part of the REACH regulations referring to CLP was updated with the EU CLP regulations content, bringing those regulations into alignment as well. Each requires accurate and detailed SDSs that provide all the information stipulated in the regulations’ content. Further to these regulations there is also a demand on suppliers of shipping oil parcels to provide similar SDSs, the requirements for which are laid out in the MARPOL VI international shipping regulations.

REACH is now entering the enforcement phase, while the EU CLP is still in the transition phase from the old regulations to the new with the implementation of the full CLP having started on 3rd January 2011.
SGS SAFETY DATA SHEET SERVICE

SGS can produce SDS’s that comply with REACH, CLP, Marpol VI and all other relevant international regulations affecting the oil, gas and chemicals industry. The same SDS’s can be used to meet the various national requirements of The EEA, North America, Australia/NZ, China and Singapore. By choosing the SGS Safety Data Sheet service you can feel confident that you will be able to provide any SDSs necessary in a fast turn around time to meet the demands of the international, regional and country specific regulations in the most appropriate language.

In order to produce the SDSs, we ask customers to provide us with some basic data about the products they require an SDS for. Typically this includes analysis along with production process information. From this, it should be possible for us to quickly and effectively construct the completed SDS for the given chemical compound, providing all the information required for the regulatory bodies.

THE BENEFITS OF THE OUR SDS SERVICE

Within a very short time you can have the SDSs you need ready to provide to your suppliers, ensuring your compliance with regulations. When time is of the essence we take the pressure off you to perform in an area that may not be your primary expertise. As the leading supplier of inspection, verification testing and certification services to the oil, gas and chemicals industry we have the knowledge to interpret analysis and provide all the accompanying hazard information. Once we have prepared a full SDS for your product we can upload it to your own IT system so that it is immediately where you can access it. We can also export it to any of the supply and tracking distributors, such as ESSDocs, who are helping companies comply with the REACH and GHS requirements. By performing this administrative tasks with your completed SDS you are assured that once you have engaged our help and supplied us with the analysis and information we need the SDS will be completed and with the necessary organisations as and when they need it. Overall, working with SGS takes the heat off your organisation, while saving you time working to prepare the documentation.

WHY SGS?

SGS is the world’s leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. Recognised as the global benchmark for quality and integrity, we employ over 64 000 people and operate a network of more than 1 250 offices and laboratories around the world. We are constantly looking beyond customers’ and society’s expectations in order to deliver market leading services wherever they are needed.

We have a history of undertaking and successfully executing large-scale, complex international projects. With a presence in every single region around the globe, our people speak the language and understand the culture of the local market and operate globally in a consistent, reliable and effective manner.

We provide innovative services and solutions for every part of the oil, gas and chemicals industry. Our global network of offices and laboratories, alongside our dedicated team, allows us to respond to your needs, when and where they occur. Our reputation for independence, excellence and innovation has established us as the market leader in providing services that improve efficiency, reduce risk and deliver competitive advantage for you.

TO LEARN HOW SGS CAN HELP YOU CONSTRUCT SAFETY DATA SHEETS CONTACT OGC@SGS.COM, OR VISIT WWW.SGS.COM/OGC.

FURTHER INFORMATION

More information on the regulations that require the provision of SDSs can be found on the following websites:

For REACH
www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/reach or www.hse.gov.uk/REACH

For CLP
www.hse.gov.uk/ghs or www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/classification

If you would like to know more about the service that SGS can offer, please contact:

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