WORK HEALTH & SAFETY FACTSHEET

FACTSHEET 9 – Hazardous Chemicals

Some key hazardous chemicals definitions	WHS Regulations: Chapter 7

GHS: the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, third revised edition, published by the United Nations, as modified under Schedule 6 of the WHS Regulations. (**Note:** Schedule 6 tables replace some tables in the GHS).

Hazardous chemical: a substance, mixture or article that satisfies the criteria for a hazard class in the GHS excluding substances where the criteria is based solely for specific hazards classes.

Safety data sheet (SDS): a safety data sheet prepared under regulation 330 or 331.

Hazard statement: a statement assigned in the GHS to a hazard class or category describing the nature of the hazards of a hazardous chemical including, if appropriate, the degree of hazard.

Precautionary statement: a phrase assigned in the GHS describing the recommended measures to be taken to **prevent or minimise** the adverse effects of exposure to a hazardous chemical; or its improper handling.

Hazardous area: a hazardous area defined under AS/NZS 60079.10 (explosive gas atmospheres) or AS/NZS 61241.10 (areas where combustible dusts may be present).

Combustible liquid: a liquid, other than a flammable liquid, that has a flash point, and a fire point less than its boiling point.

Combustible substance: a substance that is combustible (less volatile, releases fewer vapours and doesn't ignite as easily as a flammable substance) and includes dust, fibres, fumes, mists or vapours produced by the substance. Examples include wood, paper, oil, iron filings.

Ignition source: a source of energy capable of igniting flammable or combustible substances.

Asbestos containing material (ACM) means any material or thing that, as part of its design, contains asbestos (e.g. some brake linings).

Asbestos-contaminated dust or debris (ACD): dust or debris that has settled within a workplace and is, or is assumed to be, contaminated with asbestos.

Biological monitoring: the measurement and evaluation of a substance, or its metabolites, in the body tissue, fluids or exhaled air of a person exposed to the substance; and blood lead level monitoring.

Health monitoring: monitoring of a person to identify changes in the person's health status because of exposure to noise or certain substances.

Exposure standard in relation to hazardous chemicals: an exposure standard published in the Workplace Exposure Standard for Airborne Contaminants.

Hazchem Code: a Hazchem Code under the Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code, also known as an Emergency Action Code.

Lead: lead metal, lead alloys, inorganic lead compounds and lead salts of organic acids.

Manifest: a written summary of the hazardous chemicals used, handled or stored at a workplace.

Placard: a sign or notice:

- displayed or intended for display in a prominent place, or next to a container or storage area for hazardous chemicals at a workplace; and
- that contains information about the hazardous chemical stored in the container or storage area.

GHS – Hazard pictograms

WHS Regulations: Chapter 7

Explosives

Flammable

Oxidising

Gases under pressure

Corrosive

Acute toxicity

Health hazards
including carcinogenicity and specific target organ systemic toxicity

Acute health hazards of lower severity

Environmental hazards

Source: Safe Work Australia *GHS Information sheet*

Safety Data Sheet (SDS) content

WHS Regulations: Schedule 7

The information contained in a **Safety Data Sheet (SDS)**, previously referred to as a Material Safety Data Sheets or MSDS, is now prescribed under the WHS Regulations (previously contained in Codes of Practice) and must (unless a research chemical, waste product or analysis sample):

(a) contain unit measures expressed in Australian legal units of measurement under the *National Measurement Act 1960* of the Commonwealth; and

(b) state the date it was last reviewed or, if it has not been reviewed, the date it was prepared; and

(c) state the name, and the **Australian address** and **business telephone number** of:

  (i) the manufacturer; or

  (ii) the importer, who must be resident in Australia; and

(d) state an **Australian business telephone number** from which, **in an emergency**, information about the chemical can be obtained.

A safety data sheet for a hazardous chemical must also state the following information about the chemical:

s1: Identification: Product identifier and chemical identity;
s2: Hazard(s) identification;
s3: Composition and information on ingredients, in accordance with Schedule 8;
s4: First aid measures;
s5: Fire-fighting measures;
s6: Accidental release measures;
s7: Handling and storage, including how the chemical may be safely used;
s8: Exposure controls and personal protection;
s9: Physical and chemical properties;
s10: Stability and reactivity;
s11: Toxicological information;
s12: Ecological information;
s13: Disposal considerations;
s14: Transport information;
s15: Regulatory information;
s16: Any other relevant information.

The safety data sheet must use these headings, be set out in this order, be reviewed at least once every 5 years and be amended whenever is required to ensure the information remain correct and current.