



## Your Partner in Environment, Health and Safety

It can be difficult to find a chemical supplier that prioritizes performance, cost and safety. Guardian Chemicals combines ethical product innovation with industry leading expertise to create long-term, lasting supplier partnerships.

Guardian Chemicals is committed to providing accurate and up-to-date information to our customers. We know you want to keep people safe while making the best decisions for your company, and we consider environment, health and safety stewardship part of our duty to you.

### Safety Data Sheets – Industry Protection and Safety

In our industry, Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are key to communicating product hazards to the end user. SDSs are often used to assess the Environment, Health and Safety risks associated with chemicals applied in the workplace. Safety teams who are proficient at reviewing SDSs can make the most informed product and application decisions for their companies and workers.

Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that it is not uncommon for other suppliers to provide SDSs that are incorrect and are sometimes intentionally misleading. In fact, numerous studies have shown that a high percentage of SDSs contain factual

inaccuracies, misclassified hazards and missing hazardous ingredients<sup>1, 2</sup>.

SDSs are no different than any other product as their quality depends on the company and individual that prepares them. Guardian Chemicals takes the responsibility of providing you with factual and accurate information very seriously. As a result, our products may appear more hazardous than products from other suppliers, even when they use the same ingredients. We are committed to ensuring that you have all the facts so you can make informed decisions to ensure the safety of your employees.

### Simply trusting what's on an SDS without further exploration may put workers at risk:

- Inaccurate flashpoints can trigger fires and explosions and have resulted in at least one workplace fatality in Alberta<sup>3</sup>. To most accurately identify the product hazard and classification, flashpoints must be tested using a closed cup method.
- If the pH of a product is  $>11.5$  or  $<2.0$  the product should be classified as a corrosive, however numerous suppliers mis-classify corrosive products as irritants which result in the product appearing less hazardous than it really is.
- SDSs with undisclosed hazardous ingredients, which have not been approved by Health Canada, may not properly identify all the product hazards unknowingly increasing worker risk<sup>2</sup>.

## Due Diligence and Chemical Education

You can make a difference in your organization today with extra steps in your chemical approval process:

1. Choose suppliers who have a reputation for safety and quality.
2. Compare SDSs for similar products. When you spot significant discrepancies, aim to discover why instead of simply disqualifying the "more hazardous" one.
3. If you are concerned about the legitimacy of claims on an SDS, you can send the product out for external testing (e.g. flashpoint, pH, etc.).
4. If a SDS is lacking critical information (i.e. missing hazardous ingredients, closed cup flashpoint, CAS numbers, % concentration, pH), ask the vendor to provide that information. Verify that all of your requirements are met.

## Need Help Reading and Understanding an SDS?

Guardian Chemicals works for a better future through innovation in chemistry. Your health and safety is our primary concern. Our SDSs are prepared using first-class SDS software, up-to-date third-party chemical databases and authored by experienced Chemical Professionals.

We are dedicated to compliance, research and development. If there is a safer way to manufacture, distribute and apply an industrial chemical, chances are we know about it. If you are struggling to understand an SDS, call us at **1-800-661-6544**

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1. Nicol, A. M., Hurrell, A. C., Wahyuni, D., McDowall, W., & Chu, W. (2008, November). Accuracy, comprehensibility, and use of material safety data sheets: A review. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* 51, 861-876.
2. Welsh, M. S., Lamesse, M., & Karpinski, E. (2000). The verification of hazardous ingredients disclosures in selected material safety data sheets. *Applied Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*, 15(5), 409-420.
3. Radnoff, D. (2013). Accuracy of reported flash point Values on Material Safety Data Sheets and the Impact on Product Classification. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*, 10(10), 540-546.