

Memorandum

To: DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS, Construction
SENIOR CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS
RESIDENT ENGINEERS

Date: March 12, 2002

File: Division of Construction
CPD 02-4

From: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF CONSTRUCTION - MS 44

Subject: Hazardous Materials Internet Information

BACKGROUND

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) are required for all hazardous materials used on the Department of Transportation's construction job sites. Copies of the MSDS for each material/product must be maintained by the resident engineer and carried in the field by employees who may be exposed to risk from these materials and products.

The contractor is required to provide a MSDS to the resident engineer for each product intended for use on the job site. After the contractor submits the required MSDS, the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-OSHA) further requires that the MSDS "shall be maintained and kept in a readily accessible area." For the Division of Construction, this means that all MSDSs for the hazardous substances have to be available to the resident engineer, field inspectors, materials testers, construction surveyors, and any staff who may potentially be exposed to the hazardous material at the time it is used on the construction project. All MSDSs should be placed in a centralized MSDS binder or file. In addition to the compliance requirements, MSDSs should be current. This requires that they be updated regularly since they provide useful and necessary information on the properties of the chemicals and chemical products used on our construction projects. Anyone who may come into contact with hazardous materials must be familiar with the hazards, physical properties (flammability, corrosiveness, reactivity, toxicity), storage requirements, and handling information of the chemicals they are working around. It is vital for the personal safety that all personnel who may be exposed to these risks have access to the MSDS immediately in the event of an emergency such as a spill, fire, or physical contact with the chemical.

INTERNET SOURCES OF INFORMATION

There are key sources of MSDS information available on the Internet. The information these sites provide could be critical in the event the contractor fails to provide an MSDS or should additional information or clarification be required.

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MSDS information can be found on the Internet at the sites listed below. Each of these listings provides the general purpose of the site, the name of the party supporting the site, and that party's general Internet address. The specific address for the MSDS information is accurate as of March 4, 2002. In using this information, keep in mind that some of these addresses may change over time and it may be necessary for you to search the more general site listing or call directly for assistance.

For MSDS information by chemical name you may use the Louisiana State University Center for Advanced Microstructures and Devices: <http://www.camd.lsu.edu>

CAS#: <http://www.camd.lsu.edu/msds/jssearch.htm>

For MSDS information by manufacturer you may consider the Vermont Safety Information Resources, Inc.: <http://www.hazard.com>

CAS# or partial product information: <http://hazard.com/msds>

For other Internet MSDS information and access to Hazardous Chemical Archives try using the Vermont Safety Information Resources, Inc.: <http://www.hazard.com>

<http://hazard.com/msds/links.html>

For information regarding the hazardous waste transportation, the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) is a good reference at: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov>

For a Periodic Table of Chemical Elements you may try using the web site Chemical Elements.Com: <http://www.chemicalelements.com>

For a glossary of risk assessment terms the Oak Ridge National Laboratory has a comprehensive listing at: <http://www.ornl.gov/TechResources/cdf/index.html>

If you have any questions regarding this information, please call Roger Cook, regulatory agency coordinator, Office of Construction Practices at (916) 654-2735.

Original Signed by:

ROBERT PIEPLOW

Chief

Division of Construction

c: HQ Construction Staff

RC:sf