TOOLBOX SAFETY TALK – CHEMICAL SAFETY

WHAT IS A CHEMICAL?

Is any substance used in or obtained by a chemical process. Chemicals may be in the form of solids, liquids or gases.

WHAT ABOUT SAFETY DATA SHEETS (SDS's)?

Safety data sheets are an essential component of the Globally Harmonised System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and provide comprehensive safety information about a chemical.

A safety data sheet must:

- Be readily available to personnel that are required to use a chemical.
- Be kept in a location near the work area where the chemical is used.
- Identify that the chemical is a designated hazardous chemical, dangerous good, or neither.
- Be [illegible] years of their issue date.

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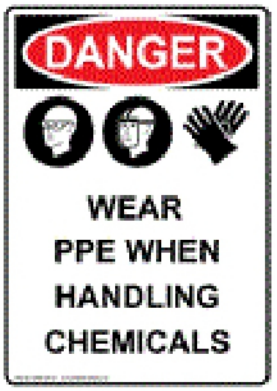
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Where a safety data sheet advises that personal protective equipment (PPE) is a control measure for using the chemical, it must be provided to personnel and worn in the appropriate manner.

It is to be noted that PPE should not be the only control relied upon to control risk, and only be considered when all other reasonably practicable control measures have been used and the risk has not been eliminated or adequately controlled.

Upon completion of a task involving the use of PPE, personnel are required to wash themselves thoroughly, particularly before eating, drinking or leaving the workplace.

IN SUMMARY

All personnel required to work with potentially hazardous chemicals or dangerous goods must be trained in their use and be aware of the potential risks.

Always seek advice if you are unsure of safety control measures!