



Tech Info Library

Material Safety Data Sheets: General Information (10/94)

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Security: Everyone

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TOPIC -----

This article provides general information about, and a discussion of, Material Safety Data Sheets -- commonly known as MSDSs.

DISCUSSION -----

A Material Safety Data Sheet is an occupational safety and health document. State and federal law requires the manufacturer, importer, and distributor of any chemical substance used in a workplace to provide Material Safety Data Sheets along with the first shipment of that substance. The law also requires employers that use chemical substances to keep the MSDS on file and train employees in their use. An MSDS contains physical, chemical, and health- and safety-related information about the chemical substance.

The law does not require MSDSs for everything used in a workplace setting. For example, you will not find MSDSs for your pencils or pencil sharpeners. The law exempts any "article" that does not release hazardous substances under conditions of normal use from the MSDS requirements. The ONLY Apple product we have ever found that required an MSDS is a machine oil we provide to our service providers for servicing our vintage Daisywheel printer.

Despite this legal exemption, some companies routinely demand MSDSs for everything they buy. In some companies, provision of MSDSs is a standard purchasing contract term. To satisfy this demand, some of our vendors (but not all) routinely prepare MSDSs for whatever they make and are available for the asking.

AAC Fulfillment has MSDSs available on some products like PowerBook batteries and LaserWriter toner cartridges and printer ribbons. Contact the Apple Assistance Center for information on availability of a particular MSDS.

Article Change History:

10 Oct 1994 - Minor clarification of wording.

28 Jul 1994 - Updated information, included where to get MSDS.

10 Mar 1994 - Revised formatting, updated information on availability of
MSDS.

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