EH&S is dedicated to the health, safety and welfare of our research, medical, dental and support communities in the fields of environmental safety, biological safety, chemical safety and radiation safety. Through a combination of training, consultation, control, and inspection, EH&S works to protect the health and safety of all personnel in the course of UConn Health sanctioned activities and maintain regulatory readiness as it pertains to OSHA, NRC, EPA, DEEP, DOT, etc.

The primary compliance focus of EH&S is OSHA’s Laboratory Standard which mandates the institution have a policy referred to as “The Chemical Hygiene Plan”. This document provides a general overview of standard operating procedure, hazard identification, work practices, PPE requirements, spill response, hazardous waste management, etc. that all laboratory (research, educational and clinical) employees must abide by.

A key component of the hazard identification program and a helpful tool in protecting yourself is reviewing a chemical/product Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Additional information on this topic is included below.

**Featured Compliance Resource**

As UConn Health employees, we all play an important part in creating a safe and healthy working and learning environment. There are many tools to assist us in evaluating and mitigating potential hazards. For instance, Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are important in helping us continue to maintain a safe workplace and protect our environment. Click below to watch a brief and informative video on this topic.

**What is a Safety Data Sheet?**

Safety Data Sheets formerly called Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are detailed informational documents prepared by the manufacturer or importer of products containing hazardous chemicals.

Safety Data Sheets are required by law as part of OSHA’s Hazard Communications Standard, and they describe:

- What chemicals are in the product
- The specific hazards associated with the chemicals
- How to protect yourself from the hazards

**Where can you find a SDS?**

To access a SDS, either search SDS websites listed on the Environmental Health and Safety website, which you can find by visiting ovpr.uchc.edu and navigating to “Services”. Healthcare staff can access a SDS by visiting nursing.uchc.edu. You can also check the specific manufacturer’s website or as a last resort, utilize a general search engine such as Google.

OSHA mandates that you maintain a readily accessible copy (electronic and or printed version) of the manufacturer-specific Safety Data Sheets for hazardous materials found in your work area. All staff must be informed of this resource and the content of the SDS reviewed (hazards, required PPE, exposure control, etc.).

For more information or questions about Safety Data Sheets, please speak with your supervisor or contact Environmental Health and Safety at 860-679-2723.