



PREVENTION AT SEA

CIRCULAR 08/2019

“MSDS – DO YOU KNOW
WHAT IT MEANS?”

CHEMICAL
STORE

Don't Cure,
PREVENT

“MSDS – Do you know what it means?”

Case: Recently, during a H.E.L.M.E.T. assessment onboard a cargo vessel, the PaSea Assessor noticed that the Deck Officers were not familiar with the MSDS posted at the Cargo Control Room. In addition, there were several chemicals found in the Engine room area for none of which the MSDS was available onboard or posted.

This can create grounds for vessel DETENTION, if it is evidenced that the MSDS are not properly posted and that assigned crew is not familiar with them.

First of all..What does MSDS mean?

MSDS stands for Material Safety Data Sheet....

MSDS is a document which provides the following information for a particular cargo or substance;

- the physical and chemical properties like the three main points such as flash, boiling and melting points
- the nature of the substance indicating its toxicity
- effects on health
- first aid that needs to be administered in case of adverse contact
- possible reactions
- methods of storage
- methods of disposal
- protective equipment to be used by people that come in contact with the material
- spill-handling procedures



MSDS is carried onboard for ensuring the safety of marine environment and seafarers.

Regulatory Framework

As per SOLAS regulation 5-1 complying with ISM code, Merchant ships are mandated to carry MSDS onboard, if ships are carrying a MARPOL Annex I Cargo or bunker onboard.

OCIMF VIQ 7 – Chapter 5.46 reads:

'Ships carrying MARPOL Annex I cargoes, as defined in Appendix I to Annex I of the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, and marine fuel oils shall be provided with a material safety data sheet prior to the loading of such cargoes. (SOLAS 2007 Amendments VI 5-1)'

'On ships carrying MARPOL Annex II cargoes, Prior to loading, the shipper should provide both to the Master and the Company, as defined in the ISM Code, a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), formatted in accordance with resolution MSC.286(86), for cargoes containing benzene. (IBC Appendix 8 Annex).'

'KEY POINTS' TO AVOID COMPLICATIONS WITH THE MSDS

The SOLAS regulation has a very broad application, and affects all ships that use oil fuel for propulsion and auxiliary machinery, as well as all ships carrying oil. Therefore, ships to which this regulation applies shall anticipate verification for compliance while at ports or terminals within territories that are a party to SOLAS.

- SOLAS Regulation VI/5-1 does not specify the entity within a Party obligated to issue the MSDS, nor does it have explicit requirements governing the duration or location for which the MSDS is to be maintained. However, we are of the understanding that the MSDS is to be issued by the supplier of the product or oil fuel.
- The MSDS shall be maintained onboard the vessel, and the information provided therein shall be readily accessible by the crew for the duration the product or oil fuel is onboard, but in any case, no less than 12 months from the date of loading or bunkering.
- When an MSDS is not provided, despite the best efforts of the operator/Master to request in advance or obtain such documentation, details shall be recorded in the ship's log. The Flag Administration should be promptly notified of such instances.
- SOLAS Regulation VI/5-1 does not provide a specific protocol for resolving incidents of non-compliance on the part of the supplier (such as failing to provide an MSDS, or providing an MSDS not in accordance with IMO guidelines). In such cases, any action that may be taken by port State authorities against the ship cannot be anticipated. It is therefore imperative for operators/Masters to ensure the requisite documentation is in place prior to loading/bunkering.

MSDS Purpose and Contents

MSDS data sheets should be on board for the following:

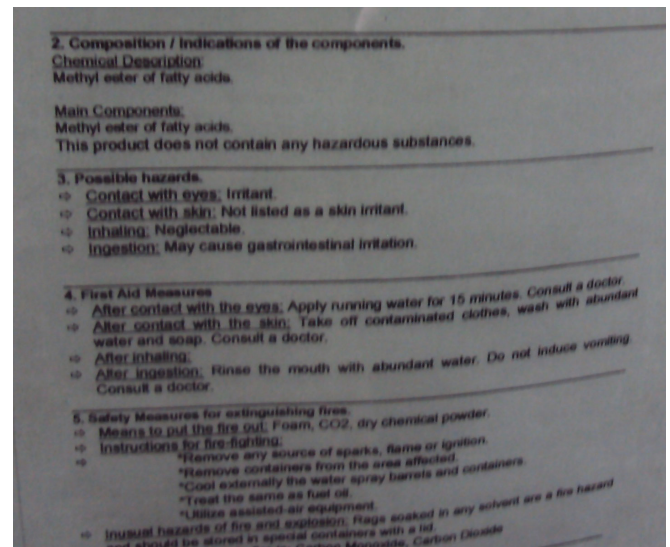
- All grades of cargo being carried
- All grades of fuel used on board
- All chemicals used on board
- Paints, protective coatings and all other corrosive or toxic materials that are carried on board



Although a specific MSDS folder was found in the Engine room, the folder contained only few old MSDS, none of which corresponded to the present chemicals onboard.

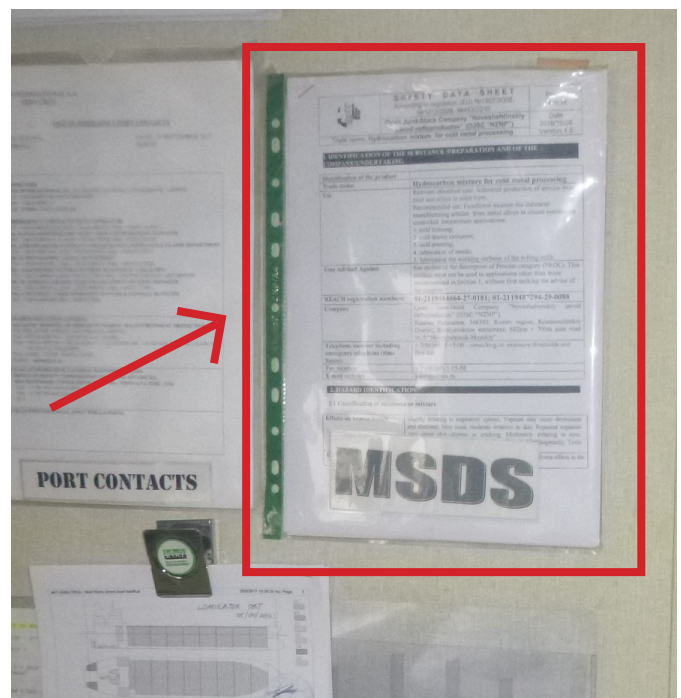
Content of MSDS

- Hazard Identification along with identification of the mixture or content
- Composition or information of the ingredients
- Fire fighting measures
- First aid measures
- Accidental release measure.
- Handling and storage criteria.
- Personal protection and exposal control methods
- Chemical and physical properties of the mixture.
- Information about the toxicity of the material.
- Ecological and Disposal information
- Transport and regulatory information.
- Additional information on the preparation and revision of MSDS.



Best Practices

- At the Company's Familiarization checklist, a specific reference is suggested to be included in regard to the MSDS contents and proper storage.
- A specific protocol for resolving incidents of non-compliance on the part of the supplier (such as failing to provide an MSDS, or providing an MSDS not in accordance with IMO guidelines), is suggested to be included in the Company's Safety Management System.
- A specified location and folder shall be established for each type of mandatory MSDS to be evident on board.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US.



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