

UAB SAFETY SHORT

Safety Data Sheets

UAB complies with the [OSHA Hazard Communication Standard](#) requiring all employees working with hazardous chemicals to understand the hazards associated with those chemicals. To ensure that SDSs are readily accessible to employees for all hazardous chemicals in their area, UAB has subscribed to the [ChemWatch chemical database system](#). This database may be accessed from any computer on the UAB campus, within the UAB Medical system, or connected via VPN.

ChemWatch has multiple uses (look up SDSs, print labels, etc.). It is highly encouraged that you read through the [instructions](#) for using ChemWatch.

Currently, the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, requires that non-laboratory departments and units that use hazardous chemicals keep paper copies of SDSs in a binder or on file, so employees have immediate access to the information without leaving their work area and to make sure the SDS is available for rapid access in case of a power outage or other emergency. If an SDS is required and not readily available on ChemWatch, contact the manufacturer, supplier or EHS to obtain one.

For laboratories, the requirements for chemical information are covered in the [OSHA Laboratory Standard](#).

It is highly recommended that paper copies of SDSs for highly hazardous or bulk quantity chemicals be maintained in laboratories, in order to enhance emergency response.

In the SDS, sections 1 through 8 contain general information about the chemical, identification, hazards, composition, safe handling practices, and emergency control measures (e.g., firefighting). This information should be helpful to those that need to get the information quickly.

For any questions you may have regarding Safety Data Sheets for your area, please contact:

Dept. Environmental Health and Safety at 934-2487