

## Material Safety Data Sheets and Chemwatch

### 1. Overview

- 1.1 Section 11 of the NSW OHS Act 2000, and Chapters 6 and 6A of the NSW OHS Regulation cover the legal obligations of manufacturers and suppliers regarding the provision of adequate information to ensure that chemicals can be used safely in the workplace.

### 2. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

- 2.1 Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) provide critical safety, toxicological and physical data to allow the safe handling and storage of chemicals in the workplace. MSDS must be provided by the supplier or manufacturer of the product.
- 2.2 The OHS Regulation requires that a register of all hazardous substances and dangerous goods in the workplace be kept, together with the MSDSs for those substances. Refer to Section 13 of the [UWS Laboratory Safety Guidelines](#) for further information on the register and Chemical Safety in general.
- 2.3 The OHS Regulation requires that copies of MSDSs must be readily accessible to employees who are required to use or handle hazardous substances or dangerous goods. Methods of access to MSDS should be discussed in consultation with employees and include:
- paper copy collections
  - computerised MSDS databases (e.g. online or cd rom)
  - microfiche copy collections with the appropriate reader
- 2.4 Local areas should ensure that:
- MSDS are current and less than 5 years old
  - employees are trained in how to access information in MSDSs

### 3. Chemwatch

- 3.1 [Chemwatch](#) is a computer-based chemical management system for the safe and effective management of chemicals through the provision of applications and services including:
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) – see 2.3 above
  - Storage and manifesting
  - Transport
  - Labelling
  - Risk assessments
- 3.2 The Chemwatch has a reference database for over 1,000,000 MSDS.
- 3.3 Chemwatch is available through [UWS Library e-resources](#).

### 4. Further Information

- 4.1 Please contact the [OHS&IS](#) unit if you require further information.