



YKK (U.S.A.) Inc.
National Manufacturing Center
3340 Chestney Road
Macon, GA 31217

TO: Whom it May Concern,

RE: Providing of SDS's

SDS's are designed for use with *hazardous substances*. They provide warnings and key protocols that need to be understood when handling a dangerous material. YKK understands this and will continue to provide such information whenever it is appropriate.

It must be understood that not all things are hazardous substances. OSHA has taken the trouble to define what should be covered with such documentation and what should not. An excerpt from their website with comments is presented below.

YKK's concerns providing this type of documentation when not necessary is as follows:

- It gives the impression YKK fasteners are hazardous substances when they are not
- It detracts from the importance of necessary SDS's when they accompany substances that really are dangerous
- They do not provide value and are costly to create and maintain

When an SDS is really needed to deal with an event involving a hazardous material, we want the relevant and necessary facts so we can handle the situation correctly. We don't want those facts to be hidden by unnecessary files and paperwork. If there is any doubt, YKK would be pleased to review the items under consideration and confirm which, if any, should come with SDS documentation for a hazardous substance.

Sincerely,

Randy Rahn
Product Certification Engineer
Engineering Center
YKK (U.S.A.) Inc.

MSDS's or SDS's come from Right to Know legislation. It is intended to provide documentation for hazardous substances. This includes things like chemicals or mixtures of chemicals like paint, glue or cleaners. The legislation is not intended for articles and non-hazardous substances. Included is an explanation from OSHA below. The most instructive sections are in blue.

From Osha.gov

Definitions. Article means a manufactured item other than a fluid or particle: (i) which is formed to a specific shape or design during manufacture; (ii) which has end use function(s) dependent in whole or in part upon its shape or design during end use; and (iii) which under normal conditions of use does not release more than very small quantities, *e.g.*, minute or trace amounts of a hazardous chemical (as determined under paragraph (d) of this section), and does not pose a physical hazard or health risk to employees.

Is a material safety data sheet (MSDS) required for a non-hazardous chemical?

MSDSs that represent non-hazardous chemicals are not covered by the HCS. Paragraph 29 CFR 1910.1200(g)(8) of the standard requires that "the employer shall maintain in the workplace copies of the required MSDSs for each hazardous chemical, and shall ensure that they are readily accessible during each work shift to employees when they are in their workarea(s)." OSHA does not require nor encourage employers to maintain MSDSs for non-hazardous chemicals. Consequently, an employer is free to discard MSDSs for non-hazardous chemicals.

Below is a List of Items Where SDS's are not needed

1910.1200(b)(5)

This section does not require labeling of the following chemicals:

1910.1200(b)(5)(i)

Any pesticide as such term is defined in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*), when subject to the labeling requirements of that Act and labeling regulations issued under that Act by the Environmental Protection Agency;

1910.1200(b)(5)(ii)

Any chemical substance or mixture as such terms are defined in the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*), when subject to the labeling requirements of that Act and labeling regulations issued under that Act by the Environmental Protection Agency;

1910.1200(b)(5)(iii)

Any food, food additive, color additive, drug, cosmetic, or medical or veterinary device or product, including materials intended for use as ingredients in such products (*e.g.* flavors and fragrances), as such terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*) or the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act of 1913 (21 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*), and regulations issued under those Acts, when they are subject to the labeling requirements under those Acts by either the Food and Drug Administration or the Department of Agriculture;

1910.1200(b)(5)(iv)

Any distilled spirits (beverage alcohols), wine, or malt beverage intended for nonindustrial use, as such terms are defined in the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (27 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.*) and regulations issued under that Act, when subject to the labeling requirements of that Act and

labeling regulations issued under that Act by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;

1910.1200(b)(5)(v)

Any consumer product or hazardous substance as those terms are defined in the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2051 *et seq.*) and Federal Hazardous Substances Act (15 U.S.C. 1261 *et seq.*) respectively, when subject to a consumer product safety standard or labeling requirement of those Acts, or regulations issued under those Acts by the Consumer Product Safety Commission; and,

1910.1200(b)(5)(vi)

Agricultural or vegetable seed treated with pesticides and labeled in accordance with the Federal Seed Act (7 U.S.C. 1551 *et seq.*) and the labeling regulations issued under that Act by the Department of Agriculture.

1910.1200(b)(6)

This section does not apply to:

1910.1200(b)(6)(i)

Any hazardous waste as such term is defined by the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*), when subject to regulations issued under that Act by the Environmental Protection Agency;

1910.1200(b)(6)(ii)

Any hazardous substance as such term is defined by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*) when the hazardous substance is the focus of remedial or removal action being conducted under CERCLA in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

1910.1200(b)(6)(iii)

Tobacco or tobacco products;

1910.1200(b)(6)(iv)

Wood or wood products, including lumber which will not be processed, where the chemical manufacturer or importer can establish that the only hazard they pose to employees is the potential for flammability or combustibility (wood or wood products which have been treated with a hazardous chemical covered by this standard, and wood which may be subsequently sawed or cut, generating dust, are not exempted);

1910.1200(b)(6)(v)

Articles (as that term is defined in paragraph (c) of this section);

1910.1200(b)(6)(vi)

Food or alcoholic beverages which are sold, used, or prepared in a retail establishment (such as a grocery store, restaurant, or drinking place), and foods intended for personal consumption by employees while in the workplace;