

5 Things You Should Know About Safety Data Sheets



Learn more about these required documents for hazmat shipping papers.

Businesses that ship hazardous materials (hazmat shipping) are required by state and federal agencies to complete a safety data sheet (SDS) for every shipment. These documents, formerly known as material safety data sheets (MSDS), are given to a carrier to keep on hand during a shipment's transit. Countries outside the United States may also have their own requirements. Below, we provide five important facts that you should be aware of regarding SDS documents to ensure you avoid potential delays and lost revenue.

5 Important Facts About Your Safety Data Sheet

- 1** An SDS document is required when transporting hazardous materials. It must be completed by the manufacturer and provided to the carrier to keep on hand during the duration of the shipment's transport.
- 2** Information required on the safety data sheet provides details about the hazardous material including chemical identity, instructions on handling and emergency procedures, health and safety hazards, safety measures, toxicity and reactivity and other physical and chemical characteristics.
- 3** The SDS must be easily available in case of emergency and include the contact information for emergency response team (or company) in case of an accident or spillage.
- 4** Carriers will not accept a hazmat shipment for transport until the SDS is completed and in hand.
- 5** Shippers should also provide a [Hazard Emergency Response Guidebook](#) page with detailed information on first aid measures, how to handle spillage or leak, health effects of contamination and protective equipment suitable for the chemical in transit.

Need help with your hazardous freight shipping?

Hazmat shipping has its own set of unique challenges — including the proper use of SDS documents. That's why shippers should consider working with a third-party logistics (3PL) provider to receive strategic shipping guidance and expertise. Worldwide Express has more than 30 years of experience helping small-to-medium-sized businesses implement successful shipping strategies, including hazmat shipping.

READY TO TALK TO AN EXPERT? REACH OUT TODAY FOR A CONSULTATION.

