



Chemsafe - FAQs

What will NCEC do with the SDS information that I provide and other Frequently Asked Questions?

Q. Why do you need my SDS?

A. As part of the Chemsafe scheme, the NCEC provides a fallback source of chemical emergency response information to the emergency services in the event that the producer cannot be contacted for this information during a chemical incident. It therefore stores SDS from chemical producers and distributors. See www.the-ncec.com/chemsafe for more info.

Q. What will NCEC do with my Safety Data Sheets?

A. All SDS sent to the NCEC are stored and indexed within a dedicated Chemsafe database so that they can be rapidly retrieved during an emergency.

Q. Who will my Safety Data Sheets be given out to?

A. NCEC will only send out a copy of your SDS to a member of the emergency services (fire, police, ambulance, hospital A&E) dealing with an incident.

Chemsafe at a glance

Chemsafe is a voluntary scheme run by the Chemical Industry Association. Chemsafe helping UK companies to meet their Responsible Care commitments by ensuring the safe transport of chemicals.

NCEC's role

- Collects and stores product information
- Provides Level 1 (telephone) advice 24/7 to UK's emergency services for chemical incidents

Benefits of Chemsafe

- Protects your image and that of the chemical industry
- Rapid access to information can minimise the impact of incidents

For more information about NCEC and Chemsafe:

www.the-ncec.com

Tel: 0870 190 6621

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Q. Do I need to send SDS for non-hazardous products, as well as those classified as hazardous?

A. You should send us SDS for all your products. The Chemsafe scheme is intended to cover all products, not just those classified as hazardous. It is just as useful to be able to tell the emergency services that a product is of low hazard so that they can scale down their response and avoid using unnecessary resources and attracting adverse media attention.

Q. I am a distributor and have lots of SDS from different manufacturers. Can I send these to NCEC?

A. Yes, but it would be useful to mark them with, e.g. a company stamp, so that they are clearly identifiable as coming from your company.

Q. Is there a Chemsafe number that I can put on my SDS?

A. No. The scheme is designed to be a backup for the blue-light emergency services, to which the NCEC provides an ex-directory number to use for advice. This is additional to, but not a substitute for, Level 1 emergency response.

Q. What format of Safety Data Sheets for you require?

A. We do not require any particular format of SDS, however we prefer SDS to be in 16 section format conforming to e.g. the UK CHIP regulations, the EU Safety Data Sheet Directive (91/155/EC as amended) or ISO 11014.

Q. What electronic formats do you accept?

A. We can accept most common formats - PDF, TIFF, common word processor formats, and text formats. For further information, please see our [Guide to Sending SDS to the NCEC](#). If your SDS are in a different format, please call us on 0870 190 6621 to discuss your requirements.

Q. How do I send my SDS to NCEC?

A. You can send your SDS to NCEC on 3.5" disk, CD-Rom or in paper format to the

National Chemical Emergency Centre
B329 Harwell
Didcot
Oxfordshire
OX11 0QJ.

Alternatively, they may be e-mailed to the NCEC at ncec@aeat.co.uk

Web-site downloads are also possible – please call us on 0870 190 6621 to discuss your requirements.