

# EXPLOSIVES HAZARDS

## Fact Sheet No 13: Safety Data Sheets for Explosives (Sheet 1)

CHIP, the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002, requires suppliers to identify the hazards of the chemical substances and preparations they supply. These regulations apply to explosive substances eg trinitrotoluene and preparations eg gunpowder.

Suppliers must provide detailed hazard information on a Safety Data Sheet. This information can be used to help undertake a risk assessment which is a systematic analysis of an activity that assesses the hazards and the likelihood of an accident, and defines the preventative and protective measures to minimise the risk of a fire or explosion.

The supplier, who might be the manufacturer, importer or distributor, must classify the dangers of the material and provide a data sheet giving this and other information under 16 obligatory headings:

- 1 Identification of the substance/preparation and company/undertaking**
  - the name of the material and name and contact details of the supplier
- 2 Composition/information on ingredients**
  - although it is not necessary to give the full composition, all substances which present a health or environmental hazard and present above their concentration limit must be listed together with their concentration or concentration range
- 3 Hazards identification**
  - the classification of the material under CHIP (see fact Sheet 5) and other characteristics such as dustiness
- 4 First-aid measures**
  - a brief summary of symptoms and effects, instruction for on the spot treatment and requirements for further medical attention
- 5 Fire fighting measures**
  - information on suitable extinguishing media, hazards arising from the material and its combustion products and special protective equipment for fire-fighters.
- 6 Accidental release measures**
  - personal precautions, environmental precautions and clean-up methods
- 7 Handling and storage**
  - advice on containment, storage conditions
- 8 Exposure controls/personal protection**
  - occupational exposure limits, collective controls and personal protection
- 9 Physical and chemical properties**
  - appearance, odour, pH, melting point etc
- 10 Stability and reactivity**
  - conditions and materials to avoid, hazardous decomposition products
- 11 Toxicological information**
  - description of health effects which can arise if the user comes into contact with the material – toxicity, corrosivity, irritation, sensitisation etc

Continued on Safety Data Sheets for Explosives Sheet 2

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### **12 Ecological information**

- possible effects, behaviour and environmental fate of the material in air, water and/or soil

### **13 Disposal considerations**

- appropriate methods of disposal eg neutralising solutions, incineration

### **14 Transport information**

- UN number, class, proper shipping name etc to enable compliance with the modal regulations for carriage of explosives

### **15 Regulatory information**

- health, safety and environmental information and other relevant UK laws or guidance eg COSHH.

### **16 Other information**

- this may include a list of relevant risk and safety phrases, recommended restrictions on use, technical contact point. Some suppliers of explosives may include results of small scale sensitiveness tests eg sensitiveness to impact and friction, thermal stability, response to fire etc.

The supplier must provide a data sheet, free of charge, when the material is supplied for the first time. The supplier must keep the data sheet up to date and revise it if any significant new information relating to health, safety and environmental protection becomes available.