



SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)

FAQ SHEET

WHAT IS A GHS-FORMATTED SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)?

An SDS or Safety Data Sheet is a document containing important information about a hazardous chemical or chemical product which and must include the following:

- **Product name**
- **Chemical and generic name of certain ingredients**
- **Chemical and physical properties of the hazardous substance**
- **Health hazard information**
- **Precautions for safe use and handling**
- **Manufacturer's name, address and telephone number.**

The SDS provides employers, workers, as well as health and safety professionals with the necessary information to assist in safely managing the risk from hazardous substance exposure.

WHY IS A SDS NEEDED FOR ARC WELDING CONSUMABLE PRODUCTS?

Lincoln Electric has provided safety data sheets (SDS) to its customers for years because the SDS provides important information to end-user customers regarding the safe use of its products. Since 1985, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) regulations have required manufacturers to provide SDS for each chemical product that it sells, including arc welding consumables.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR AN SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)?

The SDS provides industrial hygienists, employers, workers, emergency response personnel, health and safety professionals with information about: what is in the product, the potential hazards of exposure and use and how to safely handle, work with and dispose of the product.

WHAT IS THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM (GHS)?

GHS is short for "Globally Harmonized System." GHS is an internationally recognized system which specifies how the hazards of chemical products are communicated. This includes an expanded format for the MSDS, now SDS, which OSHA has indicated it will require manufacturers to provide.

WHY DO YOU NEED TO SWITCH FROM THE "MSDS" FORMAT TO THE "SDS" FORMAT?

MSDS have always included information about what is in the product, potential health hazards, and safe use instructions, as well as what to do if there is an emergency.

Lincoln Electric's new SDS will be formatted to comply with the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) and will contain 16 distinct sections with information such as, hazards, first aid safety, storage and handling, physical and chemical properties, and disposal instructions.

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WHAT OTHER CHANGES WILL BE MADE REGARDING THE NEW SDS?

As part of the change to the GHS-formatted SDS, Lincoln Electric will provide communication by distributing SDS via email and internet download, making it easier to receive and further distribute the multi-page document electronically. The SDS will no longer be placed inside each consumable package when the new SDS is phased in.

IF LINCOLN ELECTRIC IS NO LONGER PLACING A SDS IN EACH PACKAGE OF CONSUMABLE PRODUCT, HOW WILL CUSTOMERS RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION?

Customers that purchase products from Lincoln Electric will receive the Safety Data Sheets by email, internet download or alternative methods. If delivery by these methods is not possible, the SDS can even be viewed on a mobile device using a QR Code located on the Safe Use Guide and product packaging. Customers that purchase Lincoln Electric products from distributors or other resellers will receive the SDS from the distributor. Lincoln Electric SDS will continue to be available on the Lincoln Electric website at www.lincolnelectric.com/sds. On the website, you can view, download and print the SDS needed. On the website customers may also subscribe to receive automatic email alerts when the SDS for the products you use are updated.

WHAT WILL DISTRIBUTORS OF LINCOLN ELECTRIC PRODUCTS NEED TO DO?

One effect of the change in the SDS distribution method is that it becomes very important that distributors must provide SDS documents to their customers. Distributors may also provide SDS to their customers by using the email alert system on the Lincoln Electric website. Under OSHA's Hazardous Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) distributors continue to be responsible for providing SDS documents to their customers for the products they sell. An SDS must be provided to customers on or before the initial shipment of the product and after an SDS has been changed.

WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE CONSUMABLE PACKAGE WHEN THE SDS IS REMOVED?

At the same time the new SDS is rolled out, Lincoln Electric will introduce the Safe Use Guide (SUG). The Safe Use Guide will be packaged with each consumable product. This fact sheet provides a summary of basic safety and potential health hazard information for employers and welders in a simplified format. It can be used for safety training or as a convenient reminder of what should be done to weld safely.

HOW CAN A CUSTOMER OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SAFETY AND HEALTH INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE PRODUCT LABELING, SAFE USE GUIDE OR THE SDS?

Customers may contact Lincoln Electric in several ways to obtain more information regarding the safe use of its products. There is a lot of useful safety and health information available on the Lincoln Electric safety website located at <http://www.lincolnelectric.com/safety>. See the FAQ for the answers to many common welding safety questions. Request a copy of the welding Safety Interactive DVD which includes a very comprehensive course on many arc welding safety and health topics. If you need further information you may contact Lincoln Electric through the website "Contact Us" link or by calling Lincoln Electric directly at (216) 481-8100.

CAN I USE MY SMART PHONE AND QR CODE ON THE PRODUCT PACKAGE AND SAFE USE GUIDE (SUG) TO OBTAIN THE SDS?

This unique bar code allows you to instantly learn more about the products, by visiting our mobile SDS page. On this page you will find an SDS Look Up, receive product alerts, subscribe to the automated emails and view interactive welding safety all on your mobile device.



CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE POLICY

The Lincoln Electric Company is manufacturing and selling high quality welding equipment, consumables, and cutting equipment. Our challenge is to meet the needs of our customers and to exceed their expectations. On occasion, purchasers may ask Lincoln Electric for information or advice about their use of our products. Our employees respond to inquiries to the best of their ability based on information provided to them by the customers and the knowledge they may have concerning the application. Our employees, however, are not in a position to verify the information provided or to evaluate the engineering requirements for the particular weldment. Accordingly, Lincoln Electric does not warrant or guarantee or assume any liability with respect to such information or advice. Moreover, the provision of such information or advice does not create, expand, or alter any warranty on our products. Any express or implied warranty that might arise from the information or advice, including any implied warranty of merchantability or any warranty of fitness for any customers' particular purpose is specifically disclaimed.

Lincoln Electric is a responsive manufacturer, but the selection and use of specific products sold by Lincoln Electric is solely within the control of, and remains the sole responsibility of the customer. Many variables beyond the control of Lincoln Electric affect the results obtained in applying these types of fabrication methods and service requirements.

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