

Activity – Understanding MSDS and NFPA

Materials

- *MSDS for Acetone* handout
- *How to Read a Chemical Label* handout
- Colored pencils, markers, or crayons

MSDS

By law, businesses are required to keep a MSDS on file for each hazardous chemical that is used in the workplace. This file must be accessible to employees. Likewise, schools are required to keep a MSDS file for hazardous chemicals used in laboratory classrooms. The MSDS provides a wealth of information about a chemical including its physical properties, health and fire hazards, and disposal methods. Use the *MSDS for Acetone* handout to answer the following questions.

1. What does MSDS stand for?

2. List the synonyms for acetone.

3. What first aid measures should be taken if acetone comes into contact with the eyes?

4. What type of cabinet should be used to store acetone?

5. Should acetone be used near an open flame? Why or why not?

6. What are the effects of inhalation of acetone vapor?

7. Describe the odor and appearance of acetone.

8. What organs are targeted by the toxic effects of acetone?

9. Is acetone chemically stable?

10. How should acetone be cleaned up if it is spilled?

NFPA Chemical Hazard Labels

This system of identifying hazards associated with various materials was developed primarily for fire protection and emergency personnel but can be useful to anyone who needs to handle potentially hazardous material. The system provides a readily recognized, easily understood system for identifying the relative hazards of a material. It addresses the health, flammability, instability, and related hazards that may be presented as short-term, acute exposures that are most likely to occur as a result of fire, spill, or similar emergency. Use the *How to Read a Chemical Label* handout to answer the following questions.

1. What does NFPA stand for?

2. The following colors on a chemical hazard label alert a user regarding what hazards?

- a. red _____
- b. yellow _____
- c. blue _____
- d. white _____

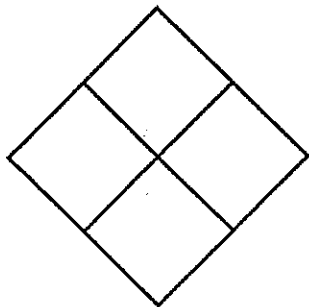
3. Interpret the numbers on a chemical hazard label.

- a. A number _____ is the least serious, and a number _____ is the most serious.
- b. What does the number three on a yellow background indicate to the user?

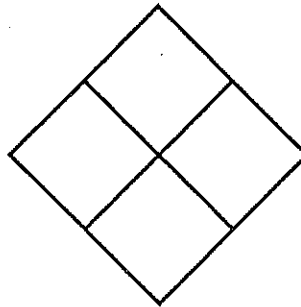
- c. What does the number one on a blue background mean?

4. Color and label the NFPA chemical hazard labels for the following substances.

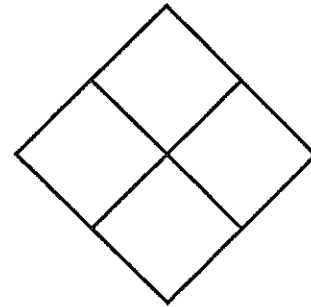
- a. **Acetone** – Use the information on the *MSDS for Acetone* handout.
- b. **Sodium** – Sodium is a soft, flammable solid that reacts readily with water in a non-explosive manner. Therefore, contact with water should be avoided. Due to its corrosive nature, sodium can cause serious damage to skin, eyes, and internal tissues,
- c. **TNT (trinitrotoluene)** – TNT is a powerful explosive that is extremely flammable and moderately toxic. TNT detonates readily as a result of shock, friction, or concussion.



a. Acetone



b. Sodium



c. TNT

FLINN SCIENTIFIC INC.

"Your Safer Source for Science Supplies"

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

MSDS #: 7.00

Revision Date: March 7, 2001

Section 1 — Chemical Product and Company Identification

Acetone

Flinn Scientific, Inc. P.O. Box 219 Batavia, IL 60510 (800) 452-1261

CHEMTREC Emergency Phone Number: (800) 424-9300

Section 2 — Composition, Information on Ingredients

Acetone

Synonyms: dimethyl ketone, 2-propanone

CAS#: 67-64-1

Section 3 — Hazards Identification

Colorless liquid with sweet odor.

Class 1B Flammable liquid; serious fire hazard.

Irritating to body tissues. Avoid all body tissue contact. Slightly toxic by ingestion. Vapor causes weakness, fatigue, nausea and headache. Skin contact causes dermatitis.

FLINN AT-A-GLANCE

Health-1

Flammability-3

Reactivity-2

Exposure-1

Storage-3

0 is low hazard, 3 is high hazard

Section 4 — First Aid Measures

Call a physician, seek medical attention for further treatment, observation and support after first aid.

Inhalation: Remove to fresh air at once. If breathing has stopped give artificial respiration immediately.

Eye: Immediately flush with fresh water for 15 minutes.

External: Wash continuously with fresh water and mild liquid soap for 15 minutes.

Internal: Give no more than 1-2 cups of water for dilution. Do not induce vomiting. Call a physician or poison control immediately.

Section 5 — Fire Fighting Measures

Class 1B Flammable liquid.

A dangerous fire hazard from heat, flame or strong oxidizers. Flash point: 0 F (CC)

Flammable limits: lower 2.6%, upper 12.8%. Autoignition temperature: 869 F

Fire Fighting Instructions: Use triclass, dry chemical fire extinguisher. Firefighters should wear PPE and SCBA with full facepiece operated in positive pressure mode.

NFPA CODE

H-1

F-3

R-0

Section 6 — Accidental Release Measures

Restrict unprotected personnel from area. Remove all ignition sources and ventilate area. Contain spill with sand, and absorbent material; deposit in sealed bag or container. See Sections 8 and 13 for further information.

Section 7 — Handling and Storage

Flinn Suggested Chemical Storage Pattern: Organic #4. Store with ethers, ketones, halogenated hydrocarbons and ethylene oxide. Store in a dedicated flammables cabinet. If a flammables cabinet is not available, store in Flinn Saf-Stor Can.

Use and dispense in a hood.

Section 8 — Exposure Controls, Personal Protection

Avoid contact with eyes, skin and clothing. Wear chemical splash goggles, chemical-resistant gloves and chemical-resistant apron.

Use ventilation to keep airborne concentrations below exposure limits. Always wear a NIOSH-approved respirator with proper cartridges or a positive pressure, air-supplied respirator when handling this material in emergency situations (spill or fire).

Exposure guidelines: TWA 750 ppm, STEL 1000 ppm (OSHA, ACGIH)

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Section 9 — Physical and Chemical Properties

Sweet odor. Colorless liquid.
Solubility: Miscible with water, alcohol and ether.
Formula: CH₃COCH₃
Formula Weight: 58.08

Melting Point: -94.6 C
Boiling Point: 56.5 C
Vapor Pressure: 180mm @ 68 F
Vapor Density: 2.00
Density: 0.79

Section 10 — Stability and Reactivity

Stable. Potentially explosive reaction with strong oxidizing agents and halogenated compounds.
Shelf life: Good, if stored safely.

Section 11 — Toxicological Information

Acute effects: severe eye irritant
Chronic effects: causes dermatitis
Target organs: liver, kidneys

ORL-RAT LD50: 5800 mg/kg
IHL-RAT LC50: 50100 mg/m³/8H
SKN-RBT LD50: 20 g/kg

N.A. = Not available, not all health aspects of this substance have been fully investigated.

Section 12 — Ecological Information

Data not yet available.

Section 13 — Disposal Considerations

Please consult with state and local regulations.
Flinn Suggested Disposal Method 18a is one option.

Section 14 — Transport Information

Shipping Name: Acetone
Hazard Class: 3, Flammable Liquid
UN Number: UN1090

N/A = Not applicable

Section 15 — Regulatory Information

TSCA-listed, EINECS-listed (200-662-2), RCRA code U002

Section 16 — Other Information

Consult your copy of the Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual for additional information about laboratory chemicals. This Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is for guidance and is based upon information and tests believed to be reliable. Flinn Scientific Inc. makes no guarantee of the accuracy or completeness of the data and shall not be liable for any damages relating thereto. The data is offered solely for your consideration, investigation, and verification. Flinn Scientific Inc. assumes no legal responsibility for use or reliance upon this data.

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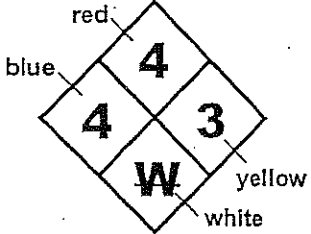
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flinn@flinnsci.com www.flinnsci.com
P.O. Box 219, Batavia IL 60510
(800) 452-1261 Fax (866) 452-1436

How to Read a Chemical Label

Hazardous materials should always be properly labeled. One common type of label is the US National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) system. Although they look rather simplistic, an NFPA label carries a lot of information for those who understand how to interpret it. For example, NFPA labels are color-coded. Each color on the label represents a different type of hazard.

| EXAMPLE | Diborane |
|----------------------------|--|
| Blue = Health hazard |  <p>Ignites spontaneously in moist air.</p> |
| Red = Fire hazard | |
| Yellow = Reactivity hazard | |
| White = Special hazard | |

What these colors represent must be remembered first.

On top of the color coding, NFPA also uses a numbering system. On every NFPA label, there should be a number from zero to four inside the blue, red and yellow areas. The numbers indicate the degree of a particular hazard.

0 = minimal hazard
 1 = slight hazard
 2 = moderate hazard
 3 = serious hazard
 4 = severe hazard

The Blue Section - Health Risks

| | |
|---|--|
| 4 | The substance is a severe health risk if the substance is not handled safely. Substances carrying a four in the blue section could cause death or irreversible injury. |
| 3 | The substance could cause serious temporary or irreversible injury. |
| 2 | The substance could cause temporary incapacitation. |
| 1 | The substance could cause irritation. |
| 0 | There is no health hazard. |



The Red Section - Fire Risks

| | |
|---|--|
| 4 | A flammable vapor or gas which burns readily. |
| 3 | A flammable liquid or solid which can be readily ignited. |
| 2 | The substance must be heated for ignition. |
| 1 | The substance must be preheated before ignition can occur. |
| 0 | There is no fire hazard. |

The Yellow Section - Reactivity Hazards

| | |
|---|--|
| 4 | The substance is readily capable of detonation or explosive reaction. |
| 3 | The substance may detonate when exposed to heat or an ignition source. |
| 2 | The substance is readily capable of non-explosive reaction. |
| 1 | The substance may become unstable at high temperatures. |
| 0 | The substance is stable. |

The White Section - Special Hazards

| | |
|---|--------------|
| OX | Oxidizer |
| ACID | Acid |
| ALK | Alkali |
| COR | Corrosive |
|  | Use no water |
|  | Radioactive |

Regardless of the numbers on the label - even if they carry ones or zeros - be cautious. All chemicals should be treated with the utmost of care.

Users must also have the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on hand for all chemicals they use. The MSDS contain detailed information on:

- Name & trade name of the substance
- Hazardous ingredient(s) it contains
- Physical characteristics of the chemical
- Protective equipment to be used
- What to do in event of a leak or spill
- Any other precautions to be followed

Adapted for print from: <http://www.ab.usf.hk/sepo/tips/ls/ls004.htm>.