Chemical Name
Lists the identity of the substance (the name on the label), date the MSDS was prepared, the name and address of the manufacturer, and usually a phone number for emergencies and more information.

Hazardous Ingredients
Includes names of substances in the chemical that might be dangerous and safe exposure limits such as Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL) as set by OSHA or the Threshold Limit Values (TLV). Also common names are sometimes given.

Chemical Identity
Describes many physical quantities of the chemical. For example, how the chemical looks and smells; boiling and melting temperatures (important in case a chemical might become a gas that you might accidently breathe); evaporation rate as a percent volatility; how easily the chemical dissolves in various liquids; and how dense it is with respect to water (specific gravity) (will it float or sink).

Physical Characteristics
Describes what happens if the chemical comes into contact with air, water, or other chemicals. Describes conditions (like heat) or materials (like water) that can cause the chemical to react by burning, exploding, polymerizing, or releasing dangerous vapors. The chemical is called “incompatible” or “unstable” with these conditions or substances.

Fire & Explosion Data
Tells you the lowest temperature when the chemical could catch on fire (flash point). Lets you know if it’s flammable (catches fire below 100F) or combustible (catches fire above 100F). Lists the best way to put out a fire involving that chemical.

Health Hazards
List ways the chemical might enter your body, like splashing on your skin or being breathed in as a vapor as well as possible symptoms of overexposure. Lets you know if overexposure might make existing medical conditions worse and describes emergency first aid procedures.

Usage, Handling, And Storage
Describes how to clean up an accidental spill, leak, or release, including special procedures. Tells you how to handle, store, and dispose of chemicals safely. Remember, if there is an accident, notify your supervisor immediately and take care of it yourself only if you are trained to do so and are wearing the proper personal protective equipment.

Special Protection
Explains special personal protective equipment (PPE) and other equipment to use when working with the chemical, special procedures, extra health or safety information, signs that should be posted, and other information not covered in other sections.