

## Safety Data Sheet Terms and Definitions

**Acute** – adverse effect on a human or animal that has severe symptoms developing rapidly and coming quickly to a crisis.

**Acute Toxicity** – acute effects resulting from a single dose of, or exposure to, a substance.

**Carcinogen** – a substance that promotes the formation of cancer.

**Ceiling Limit (C)** – maximum amount of a toxic substance allowed in workroom air any time during a day.

**Chronic** – an adverse effect on a human or animal body with symptoms that develop slowly over a long period of time or that recur frequently.

**Exposure Limit** – a chemical's safe concentration in workplace air. At this level or lower most workers can be exposed without harmful effects. The four most common exposure limits are threshold limit value-time weighted average (TLV-TWA), short-term exposure limit (STEL), ceiling value (C), and permissible exposure limit (PEL).

**Germ Cell Mutagenicity** – capable of causing mutations in the germs cells of humans that can be passed on to future generations.

**Globally Harmonized System (GHS)** - the international standard adopted by OSHA which includes standardized hazard testing criteria, universal warning pictograms, and harmonized safety data sheets.

**Hazard Classification** - the nature of the physical or health hazards, e.g., flammable solid, carcinogen, oral acute toxicity. In addition, classification for health and physical hazards includes the determination of the degree of hazard, where appropriate, by comparing the data with the criteria for health and physical hazards.

**Hazard Not Otherwise Classified (HNOC)** - an adverse physical or health effect identified through evaluation of scientific evidence during the classification process that does not meet the specified criteria for the physical and health hazard classes as stated by OSHA.

**Health hazard** - a chemical which is classified as posing one of the following hazardous effects: acute toxicity (any route of exposure); skin corrosion or irritation; serious eye damage or eye irritation; respiratory or skin sensitization; germ cell mutagenicity; carcinogenicity; reproductive toxicity; specific target organ toxicity (single or repeated exposure); or aspiration hazard.

**Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL)** – the legal limit for exposure of an employee to a chemical substance.

**Physical hazard** - a chemical that is classified as posing one of the following hazardous effects: explosive; flammable (gases, aerosols, liquids, or solids); oxidizer (liquid, solid or gas); self-reactive; pyrophoric (liquid or solid); self-heating; organic peroxide; corrosive to metal; gas under pressure; or in contact with water emits flammable gas.

**Pyrophoric gas** - a chemical in a gaseous state that will ignite spontaneously in air at a temperature of 130° F or below.

**Reproductive Toxin** – substances that affect either male or female reproductive systems and may impair the ability to have children.

**Routes of exposure** – the means by which a material may gain access to the body. Example: inhalation, ingestion, and skin contact.

**Short-term Exposure Limit (STEL)** – the acceptable average exposure limit over a short period of time, usually 15 minutes as long as the time-weighted average is not exceeded.

**Simple asphyxiant** - a substance or mixture that displaces oxygen in the ambient atmosphere, and can thus cause oxygen deprivation in those who are exposed, leading to unconsciousness and death.

**Teratogenic** – capable of causing birth defects.

**Threshold Limit Value-Time Weighted Average (TLV-TWA)** – the level to which a worker can be exposed during an 8-hour work day for a working lifetime without adverse effects.