



Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

www.csceng.com 800.807.1118



Every day, Clark Seif Clark professionals are deployed across the nation helping both large and small customers resolve health & safety, industrial hygiene, environmental and indoor air quality issues.

At a moment's notice, Clark Seif Clark can send their experts anywhere they are needed. No matter if it's in response to a hurricane, wildfire, flood, tornado or other natural disaster, Clark Seif Clark is ready to help and can respond in no time at all.

Exposure to Fragrances and Perfumes in the Work Environment Could Cause or Exacerbate Asthma

The perfumes and fragrances that are found in personal care products, air fresheners and even cleaning products are frequently encountered and all too common. While some people find these odors to be pleasant, these same scents can act as a respiratory irritant for others. Even worse, the smell of a strong perfume or fragrance could trigger an asthma attack for some people with the condition.

Controlling exposure to these odors in the home is often manageable, but for some asthmatics, exposure to asthma triggers such as perfumes and fragrances, is much harder to control in the work environment. Work-related asthma, also known as occupational asthma, is a lung disease that can cause a shortness of breath, chest tightness, coughing and wheezing after exposure to an allergen or irritant at work. Common workplace exposures that can cause the condition include contact with dust, mold, animal and insect allergens, plants and various chemicals, including perfumes and fragrances.

The California Work-Related Asthma Prevention Program (WRAPP) addresses this workplace issue and has published information for employers and workers about exposure to

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fragrances. Their suggestions include:

- Training employees about the health effects of fragrances.
- Having a fragrance-free policy.
- Prohibiting the use of air fresheners in the workplace.
- Fixing or removing what is causing bad odors.
- Choosing fragrance-free cleaning products.
- Bringing in adequate fresh air from the outside.

" Decreased productivity, higher turnover rates, increased sick days, excessive medical costs and the impact on quality of life are all issues associated with work-related asthma caused by exposure to respiratory irritants and allergens with sensitized employees," said Franco Seif, President at Clark Seif Clark (CSC). "Our teams of industrial hygiene and indoor environmental quality (IEQ) professionals at Clark Seif Clark work to identify asthma triggers, allergens and respiratory irritants of all types. This is accomplished through building assessments, inspections, testing, monitoring and training services. In addition to exposure concerns associated with perfumes and fragrances, CSC's experts also identify other chemical compounds and microbial asthma triggers. The end result is a happy and productive workforce."

CSC has sponsored an educational video about fragrances and work-related asthma that can be seen here:



Fragrances & Work-Related Asthma

To learn more about this or other occupational, indoor air quality, environmental, health and safety testing services, please visit www.csceng.com , email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

Industrial Hygiene Services and Safety Data Sheets
Identify Chemical Exposure Risks in the Workplace

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Is It Safe?

In 2012, the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) (29 CFR 1910.1200(g)) was revised to require chemical manufacturers, distributors or importers to provide Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets or MSDS, to communicate the dangers of hazardous chemical products.

As of June 2015, the HCS requires that Safety Data Sheets be presented in a consistent user-friendly, 16-section format. To provide guidance to help workers who handle hazardous chemicals become familiar with the format and understand the various sections, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides the following descriptions:

- Section 1: Identification - Identification includes product identifier; manufacturer or distributor name, address, phone number; emergency phone number; recommended use; restrictions on use.
- Section 2: Hazard(s) Identification - Hazard(s) identification includes all hazards regarding the chemical; required label elements.
- Section 3: Composition/Information on Ingredients - Composition/information on ingredients includes information on chemical ingredients; trade secret claims.
- Section 4: First-Aid Measures - First-aid measures includes important symptoms/effects, acute, delayed; required treatment.
- Section 5: Fire-Fighting Measures - Fire-fighting measures lists suitable extinguishing techniques, equipment; chemical hazards from fire.
- Section 6: Accidental Release Measures - Accidental release measures lists emergency procedures; protective equipment; proper methods of containment and cleanup.
- Section 7: Handling and Storage - Handling and storage lists precautions for safe handling and storage, including incompatibilities.
- Section 8: Exposure Controls/Personal Protection - Exposure controls/personal protection lists OSHA's Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs); ACGIH Threshold Limit Values (TLVs); and any other exposure limit used or recommended by the chemical manufacturer, importer, or employer preparing the SDS where available as well as appropriate engineering controls; personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Section 9: Physical and Chemical Properties - Physical and chemical properties lists the chemical's characteristics.
- Section 10: Stability and Reactivity - Stability and reactivity lists chemical stability and possibility of hazardous reactions.
- Section 11: Toxicology Information - Toxicological

information includes routes of exposure; related symptoms, acute and chronic effects; numerical measures of toxicity.

- Section 12: Ecological Information
- Section 13: Disposal Considerations
- Section 14: Transport Information
- Section 15: Regulatory Information
- Section 16: Other Information - Other information includes the date of preparation or last revision.

"The SDS format is helpful for educating workers and employers must ensure that this information is readily accessible to employees for all hazardous chemicals in the workplace," said Zahid Iqbal, MPH, CIH and Technical Director at Clark Seif Clark (CSC). "While these documents provide valuable information if they are kept up to date and are complete, unfortunately this is not always the case. At CSC, our industrial hygiene professionals help companies and institutions maintain the appropriate and accessible SDSs to comply with OSHA regulations. We also offer worksite assessments; inspections; and industrial hygiene testing, monitoring and training services to protect workers."

CSC has even sponsored an educational video about Safety Data Sheets and hazardous chemicals that can be seen here:



Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for Hazardous Chemicals

To learn more about this or other occupational, indoor air quality, environmental, health and safety services, please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

About Clark Seif Clark: CSC was established in 1989 to help clients in both the public and private sectors address environmental issues. CSC is a leading provider of these services with multiple offices along the western seaboard and southwest. The company

believes in science-based protocols and has a strong background in engineering making them the preferred environmental consultants to healthcare facilities, architects, schools, builders, contractors, developers and real estate professionals.