

Creating a combined SDS satisfying Mexico's NOM-018-STPS-2015 standard, the US HazCom 2012 standard, and Canada's WHMIS 2015 requirements

General Comments

A combined SDS will need to satisfy the following requirements:

- Fully translated copies provided in **English, French, and Spanish**
- Date of preparation/revision and date of previous issue reported in the SDS
- Numbers and units expressed in the **international System of Units (SI)**; however, it is recommended to include English units of measurement (i.e., Fahrenheit) for US suppliers.

Section 1 of SDS

- Report **supplier details**. The definition of 'supplier' according to the guidelines of Mexico is "the natural or 'legal' person who produces, processes, distributes, markets, imports or exports the hazardous chemical" (Section 4, NOM-018-STPS-2015). Details include the name, full address, and telephone number(s) of the supplier.
- Report the supplier's Canadian address (Exemptions listed in Sections 5.8 and 5.9 of Canada's Hazardous Products Regulations) if the combined SDS is being used by a Canadian supplier.
- Report an **emergency number(s)** that can provide services in the local language of the supplier's territory. If applicable, also provide available hours and restrictions of the emergency number in the combined SDS due to the regulatory guidelines of Canada and Mexico.

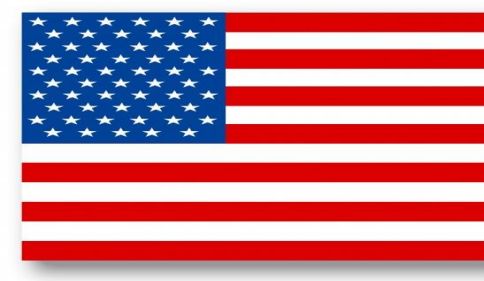
Section 2 of SDS

- Report **combustible dusts, simple asphyxiants, and pyrophoric gases** (hazard classifications not defined by GHS) on NAFTA-compliant SDSs since these hazard classifications have been added to US HazCom 2012 and Canada's WHMIS 2015 with specific labelling elements. Mexico's NOM-018-STPS-2015 does not include standard elements for these non-GHS hazards, but it states that information regarding other hazards not defined in the standard must be provided in the SDS (Appendix E, NOM-018-STPS-2015).
- Report **H and P codes** associated with the hazard and precautionary statements (i.e., H301 and P201) on the combined SDS and label since they are required by Mexican regulations (Section 10.5 and Appendix E, NOM-018-STPS-2015). US and Canadian regulations do not require H and P codes.

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Abstract

The ability to generate a single safety data sheet (SDS) and label for a product supplied in the United States, Canada, and Mexico could facilitate trade between the North American countries and also streamline the communication of health and safety information across borders. Suppliers should be able to generate NAFTA-compliant SDSs and labels because Mexico's hazard communication NOM-018-STPS-2015 standard, United States' Hazard Communication (HazCom) 2012 standard, and Canada's Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) 2015 standard have now all adopted the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). Mexico and Canada have adopted the fifth revision of GHS while the US HazCom 2012 is currently based on the third revision. Even though the regulations of all three jurisdictions align with GHS, there are some notable variations that must be accounted for when creating a combined SDS or label. The intent of this poster is to provide evidence that a NAFTA-compliant SDS and label could be authored, but there are certain requirements of US, Canada, and Mexico that must be satisfied.



- This poster discusses compliancy only with Mexico's NOM-018-STPS-2015 standard published in 2015. Mexico's two previous mandatory standards (NOM-018-STPS-2000 and NOM-018-STPS-2014) do not align with GHS. Suppliers in Mexico may choose to comply with the older standards during a transitional period until both are repealed in October 2018.
- The **lower thresholds for classification** (adopted by the US and Canada) reported in the UN GHS Purple Book should be used when determining the hazard classifications of a mixture. The NOM-018-STPS-2015 standard of Mexico refers to a prior, voluntary standard (NMX-R-019-SCFI-2011 based on Rev. 3 of the Purple Book), which does not prohibit using the lower thresholds.
- The labelling elements for aerosols differ between Revision 3 and 5 of the Purple Book.
- All jurisdictions have adopted the same rules regarding the omission of the "exclamation mark" hazard symbol in certain circumstances if it is also required to use the "skull and crossbones" symbol, "corrosion" symbol, or "health hazard" symbol to indicate respiratory sensitization.
- The pictograms present in a NAFTA-compliant SDS will have to satisfy the minimum size requirements indicated in Table B.2 of Appendix B in Mexico's NOM-018-STPS-2015 standard.

Section 2 of SDS (continued)

- Do NOT combine precautionary statements on a NAFTA-compliant SDS since Mexico has not released any additional guidance that allows combining as long as the combination conveys the same information as the uncombined statements. Mexico has not clearly discussed the omission of precautionary statements that are not applicable to the product either.
- Please note: For the Spanish translation of the combined SDS, when using the signal word "Danger", it must not appear as "Attention" according to Mexico's NOM (Section 10.4, NOM-018-STPS-2015).

Section 3 of SDS

- All jurisdictions require reporting impurities and stabilizing additives** that are considered hazards and contribute to the classification of the product.

Confidential business information in a NAFTA-compliant SDS:

- Both US and Mexico regulations permit suppliers to claim the chemical identity and/or exact concentration of a hazardous component in a product as proprietary information (a concentration range may substitute the percentage). The claim of **trade secret** must be reported in the SDS.
 - * Please note: OSHA states that concentration ranges (i.e., due to batch-to-batch variability) cannot be claimed as a trade secret (OSHA HazCom 'Questions and Answers' guidance).
- Canada requires that a supplier or employer file a confidential business information (CBI) claim with Health Canada under the provisions of the *Hazardous Materials Information Review Act* (HMIRA). Once approved, an **HMIRA Registry Number** is assigned and should be reported in the SDS. Please remember that the registry number does expire, and a refiling application and fee will be required.

Sections 8, 9, and 12 to 15 of SDS

- The list of components in Section 3 must match the list of components present in Section 8 reporting the occupational exposure limits (OELs) due to US regulatory guidelines. Report "not applicable" or "none" if a component does not have an associated OEL.
- The molecular weight should be listed in Section 9 (Physical and chemical properties) of a combined SDS, since Mexico's NOM lists it as a required endpoint (Appendix E.3, NOM-018-STPS-2015).
- The hazard communication standard of Mexico does not state that Sections 12 through 15 are non-mandatory unlike the US and Canada's guidance. The translated version of Mexico's Standard states that the "ecotoxicological information, product disposal and transport regulations shall be provided in accordance with the requirements established by the competent authorities of Mexico" (Section 9.1, NOM-018-STPS-2015).