

CEM OHSE NEWSLETTER



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HAPPY NEW YEAR



Chemistry's Health and Safety Amathuba Site

Late last year the CEM OHSE Unit launched its new H&S Amathuba site to replace its Vula site. On this site you will be able to have access to the following:

1. All H+S Committee minutes from 2020
2. Resources related to both bio- and chemical safety
3. Labels and notices for reagent bottles
4. SDSs
5. Videos for various training exercises

The link to site is found below:

[Homepage - Chemistry Health and Safety](#)

Please let the CEM OHSE Unit know if you don't have access to the site,



The importance of SDSs

An SDS for a chemical is an incredible treasure trove of information and should be your go-to guide before diving into any experiment with that chemical/s. Here's the amazing info you can uncover on an SDS:

1. Discover the Physical and Health Hazards: Is the chemical flammable, toxic, an oxidizer, corrosive, or an irritant?
2. Gear Up with the Right PPE: Know exactly what personal protective equipment you need to wear.
3. Master the Art of Handling and Storage: Learn how to handle and store the chemical properly—should it be in the fridge, freezer, or at room temperature?
4. Be Prepared for Emergencies: Get the lowdown on what to do in an emergency, including essential first aid measures.
5. Uncover Physical Properties: Scan the fascinating details of the chemical's physical properties.
6. Explore Toxicology Information: Understand the potential health impacts with detailed toxicology info.

So, dive into the SDS and plan your experiment with confidence and excitement!



What information should you include on your Inventory

There is quite a bit of Information that should be included in your inventory.

1. Chemical Name



2. Amount: use a separate line for each container of the same compound
3. Physical and Health Hazards
4. CAS Number (plus supplier) of the chemical you have in your Chemical store.
5. State (gas/liquid/solid)
6. Location (i.e. tray number chemical store, fridge)
7. Flash point
8. Arrival date/opened date and expiry date



Starlings and the mystery room (PD HAHN)

Last spring, the CEM OHSE Unit stumbled upon a hidden gem beneath LT3—a mysterious room unveiled by a pair of adventurous Starlings who had made it their cozy nesting spot! Dive into the thrilling tale of discovery, where tiny chicks hatched, were carefully weighed and ringed, and eventually took their exhilarating first flight into the world.



For the full details, read the published article on the CEM OHSE Unit website. Link to the article can be found below:

[starlings-and-the-mystery-room-in-pd-hahn.pdf](#)

Communication Device Policy

Exciting news from the CEM OHSE Unit! They've rolled out an updated policy on using cell phones, tablets, laptops, and other communication devices in the lab. This is a game-changer, so make sure you check it out! The policy generally prohibits these devices, but there are some special conditions where they're allowed. Heads up—our vigilant OHS Officer will be actively ensuring everyone follows the new rules during her routine inspections. Get the full details by clicking the link below and stay ahead of the curve!

[Communication Device Policy](#)

