



# ARE YOU READY

## FOR NEW OSHA REQUIREMENTS?

Patterson Dental is partnering with Global Safety Management™ (GSM) to bring you AutoSDS, a new tool for managing safety data for your practice. Together, we'll help you meet OSHA's June 2016 Globally Harmonized System, or GHS, compliance deadline.

Read on to learn more about the regulations and requirements for your practice, and get answers to frequently asked questions.

### Safety Data Basics

Businesses using hazardous products are required by OSHA to store safety data relating to these products. Currently, OSHA requires that safety data is presented in a format called a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). These sheets include information like what chemicals are in the hazardous product and what to do in case of an accident.

Businesses commonly obtain MSDS from the distributor that sold them the hazardous product or directly from the product's manufacturer. For example, Patterson customers receive hard copies in the mail with product shipments and can find printable MSDS online.

OSHA also poses requirements on how businesses manage safety data once they have obtained it, requiring that the data be readily available and up to date. The most common method of managing MSDS is by storing them in an alphabetized binder.

### What Is GHS?

OSHA has begun to change the requirements for how businesses maintain safety data through what is called the Globally Harmonized System (GHS). It's important dental offices understand the changes and their associated deadlines.

GHS falls under the OSHA "Hazard Communication" requirements 29 CFR 1910.1200:

- [osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3187/osha3187.html](http://osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3187/osha3187.html)
- [osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html](http://osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html)

Take note of this recent change to 29 CFR 1910.1200:

Safety data will soon be required to follow a global standard format. The old MSDS format, which varied by manufacturer, will be replaced by a new format called Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

**By June 1, 2016, as an employer you must comply with the new GHS requirements ([osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/hcsfactsheet.html](http://osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/hcsfactsheet.html)). This means replacing MSDS with SDS!**

**To sign up for AutoSDS today, visit [autosds.com](http://autosds.com) or contact your Patterson representative.**





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## OSHA Violations Can Be Costly

- In 2013, Hazard Communication violations became the second most common OSHA citation
- Fines can be as high as \$7,000 per day per incident and up to \$70,000 for repeated and willful violations
- Electronic online (M)SDS management will meet new requirements; however, online management must be product-specific to your practice. You cannot rely on (M)SDS housed on manufacturers' websites
- Employees can file anonymous complaints about employer compliance

## What Is AutoSDS?

AutoSDS is a subscription based online (M)SDS management solution, which operates using GSM's massive library of (M)SDS. After signing up, you will be able to access AutoSDS through a URL that's unique to your practice from which you'll be able to browse (M)SDS for the products that are specific to only your business. Once you've signed up for AutoSDS, you can rest assured that GSM representatives will be working hard to maintain the most up to date versions of the (M)SDS that you need – that means no more contacting manufacturers for new versions!

**Go to the next page for answers to your frequently asked questions! >>**

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# Frequently Asked Questions About SDS

## OSHA Regulations

### **Q. Do I have to have hard copies of my (M)SDS?**

**A:** It's a common misconception that to be compliant you must have hard copies of all (M)SDS. In actuality, it is only required that you have (M)SDS that are readily available and up to date. Most often, practices will store their (M)SDS in a binder; however, OSHA's own interpretation of this statement has paved the way for online (M)SDS management.

### **Q: What does it mean to have my (M)SDS both readily available and up to date?**

**A:** To meet OSHA's requirement of having (M)SDS readily available and up to date, practices need to: 1) provide easy access to anyone who requests to see their (M)SDS or is employed at the practice; 2) ensure that they have the latest version of a manufacturer's (M)SDS for their product; and 3) have (M)SDS only for the products that are pertinent to their practice.

### **Q: Why can't I just buy an (M)SDS book?**

**A:** (M)SDS books are an appealing approach to complying with OSHA's regulations; however, they don't quite cut it. That's because (M)SDS books compile top products from the dental industry rather than the products actually used in your practice. They also don't keep up with changes from the manufacturer, meaning they won't always be up to date.

### **Q: Why shouldn't I just keep using my binders?**

**A:** Binders are a great way to keep compliant, but they require a lot of work to maintain so that your (M)SDS are both readily available and up to date. Specifically, binders require that you spend time confirming with manufacturers on a regular basis that you have the most current version of their (M)SDS as well as spend time organizing your binder.

### **Q: Why is AutoSDS better than consultation when it comes to staying compliant?**

**A:** An OSHA consultant can be a quick fix when you are in need of last-minute preparation for an audit. However, consultants can be expensive and they aren't a permanent or lasting solution. Instead, hiring a consultant will solve your (M)SDS needs in the short term, but their solution will be more like a snapshot than an evolving library of your (M)SDS. If you're considering this option, ask yourself what happens when you bring on a new product after a consultant visit? What about if a manufacturer changes a product's formula? What about when the manufacturer has updated their (M)SDS to GHS or made other changes? Each time you need to update your (M)SDS, you'll need another visit from the consultant.

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# Frequently Asked Questions **About SDS**

## **Subscribing to AutoSDS**

**Q: If I am not a Patterson customer, can I still subscribe to AutoSDS?**

**A:** To purchase AutoSDS, you must register for or have an existing Patterson customer account. There are no requirements about purchasing other items from Patterson, but additional fees might apply when placing requests to add (M)SDS to your library for products not purchased from Patterson.

**Q: If I am a Patterson customer but I purchase a number of products from other distributors, can I still subscribe to AutoSDS?**

**A:** Yes. All products requiring an (M)SDS that were purchased from Patterson in the past 24 months and going forward from the date of subscription will be automatically uploaded into your virtual binder. Additional fees might apply to acquire an (M)SDS for a product not purchased from Patterson.

**Q: How long after signing up can I expect to receive my unique AutoSDS URL?**

**A:** You will receive an email with the link to your unique AutoSDS URL within 1 to 5 business days.

**Q: In what format will I receive my unique AutoSDS URL?**

**A:** You will receive a unique URL from GSM after setup is complete. This URL will contain your unique AutoSDS library. It is recommended that you bookmark this URL on all computers at your practice where an employee might need to access it. Your AutoSDS is also available on mobile devices, like smartphones and tablets.

**Q: How do (M)SDS get placed onto my unique AutoSDS library?**

**A:** Your unique AutoSDS library will be initially loaded with all of the products you've purchased from Patterson over the past two years. For products not purchased from Patterson, you will be able to search GSM's full library of manufacturer (M)SDS and add them to your unique AutoSDS library. Any products that are not in GSM's (M)SDS library can be requested through AutoSDS. GSM will contact the manufacturer and add the (M)SDS to your unique AutoSDS library for you. Each month you have a set number of free requests. If your number of requests exceeds the number of free requests you have in a given month, then you will incur a small fee. Finally, GSM can also process any number of binders for an additional fee. To help you remain compliant and for help in case of emergencies during binder processing, AutoSDS customers will be provided with a 24-hour hotline phone number.

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