



Section 4 of the SDS: Considerations for the Human Element

Tanisha Upshaw
Global Safety Management

Presenter biography

Tanisha Upshaw is the Director of Global Chemical Regulatory Affairs at Global Safety Management (GSM). She is an expert in global chemical regulatory compliance with a proven record of success through her leadership, project management and creative problem-solving of chemical industry challenges. At GSM, Tanisha leads the regulatory team in product stewardship, technical and regulatory compliance efforts for chemical compliance matters concerning hazard communication, Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and product label authoring, chemical registrations (TSCA, REACH, etc.) and general regulatory monitoring and awareness for a global customer base.



Under her direction at GSM, an environmental health and safety software company dedicated to simplifying product safety documentation and compliance, Tanisha has been instrumental in providing valuable industry input for TotalSDS™, the industry's most advanced product safety documentation and compliance technology. She has been responsible for optimizing the functionality of the SDS/label authoring software by interfacing with business analysts and development teams to translate business needs into system requirements.

She is also Principal – Product Safety and Regulatory Affairs at Newell Brands, where she provides functional, technical, and process expert level consulting to project teams for new product development (NPD) as well as leading technical, product stewardship and regulatory compliance efforts for a portfolio of products in accordance with US and international standards.

As a lifetime steward of the chemical and regulatory industry, Upshaw is recognized for her ability to improve processes while ensuring compliance with established guidelines while leading cross-functional teams.

Mentoring gifted elementary and middle school students to enhance their chemistry skills has been another way she is helping to shape the industry's future.

Tanisha holds a Bachelor of Science in General Science with concentrations in Chemistry, Biology and Physics from Middle Tennessee State University, a Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Management from American Military University and is a Certified ISO Integrated Lead Auditor.

Presentation abstract

The goal of this presentation is to address industry shortcomings regarding the authoring of section 4 of the Safety Data Sheet and to provide recommendations for improvement.

Specifically, these points will be addressed by:

- Providing participants with examples and practical information about what the industry shortcomings are (bad habits, too much/too little information, lack of priority, common sense approaches, precedence of statements, losing sight of the human elements, authoring for the intended audience).
- Present solutions to the shortcomings listed above including examples of how they could be prevented, while providing guidance on improving the quality of information.
- Closing remarks: Real life examples of when appropriate first aid measures would have made a difference.