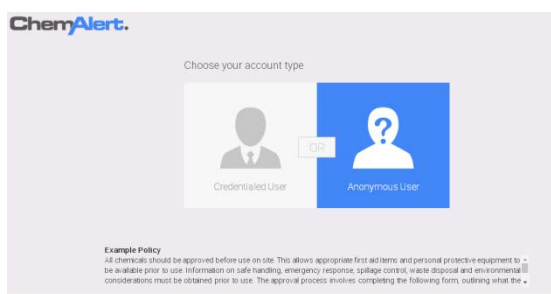# USING CHEMALERT (V4.1)

WHAT IS CHEMALERT?

ChemAlert (v4.1) is a web based chemical information database, which allows you to search for a chemical and then print a safety data sheet (SDS), ChemAlert report, GHS report or label. An SDS for a chemical contains information such as potential health hazards, first aid information, safe handling instructions, procedures for dealing with spills and advice on the appropriate protective equipment to be used.
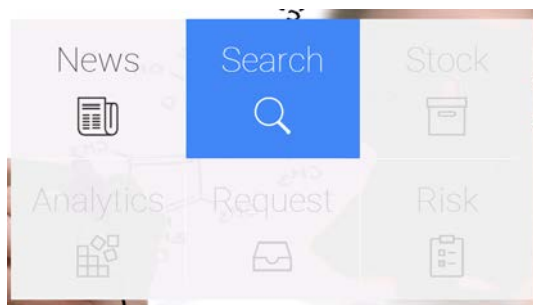
Please note: to access the information in the ChemAlert database you will need to set your internet browser to allow pop-up windows from the ChemAlert website. A Unikey will be required to access ChemAlert when off campus.
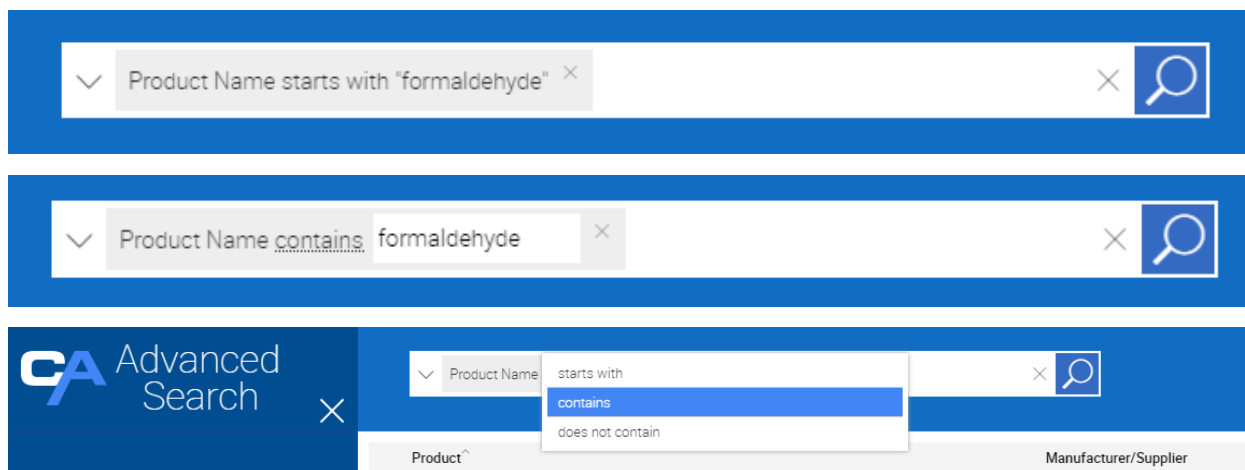
SEARCHING FOR A SAFETY DATA SHEET

1. Select the "Anonymous" account to login.

2. To search for a chemical choose the "**Search**" box.

3. Simply type the chemical name into the search box and click on the search icon to retrieve information.

4. Double clicking on the search box allows parameters to be set for the text of the chemical name. For example, if formaldehyde is typed in as the chemical name the search criteria can be set so that the results to be returned can start with, contain, or do not contain the word formaldehyde. In this way searches can be broadened or refined.

5. Click in the search box again to add more parameters to the search criteria. These parameters include the product name, manufacturer/ supplier, chemical name synonym or CAS number. Multiple parameters will act to narrow the search results.
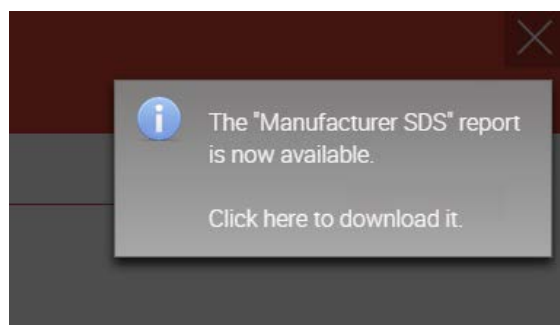

6. A number of results matching your search criteria are display which may require you to scroll down the page to see all of the results. Select the chemical supplier for the chemical you are using.

Note: the list is colour coded: red, amber and green as previously. This is a ChemAlert colour coding that indicates hazard severity of each chemical.

7. Click the SDS link to directly view the Manufacturer's SDS. Then the following message will appear.

8. To directly access information, ChemAlert reports and labels for a particular chemical, double click on the chemical name. A page will appear with the following tabs on the left hand side. Each tab has a number of information pages, which breaks down the information available in an SDS. The last tab "Report" allows the full SDS, to be view or printed.

TABS	Different sections within a tab	
Identification	Identification	Chemical name, supplier details, synonym, uses
	Ingredients	
	Reference	
Classifications	Risk/Safety	Approved Criteria risk and safety phrases, Poison Schedule
	Transport	Dangerous Goods Classes, Packing Groups, UN number
	GHS	GHS pictograms, signal word, hazard and precautionary statements
Emergency	First Aid	Response for exposure, inhalation, skin and eye contact, ingestion
	Emergency	Extinguishing media, special hazards, HAZCHEM code,
	Protection	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Exposure Standards,
Information	Health	Toxicological information, Toxicity data (LD_{50})
	Environment	Ecological toxicity data, persistence and bio-accumulative potential
	Properties	Physicochemical data, pH, boiling point, flashpoint, lower explosion limit (LEL), upper explosion limit (UEL) etc
	Storage	Storage precautions, stability and reactivity, disposal
Reports	Reports	Manufacturer SDS, GHS ChemAlert reports, Transport reports,
	Labels	Varying sizes 1 label/A4 page through to 65 labels/A4 page

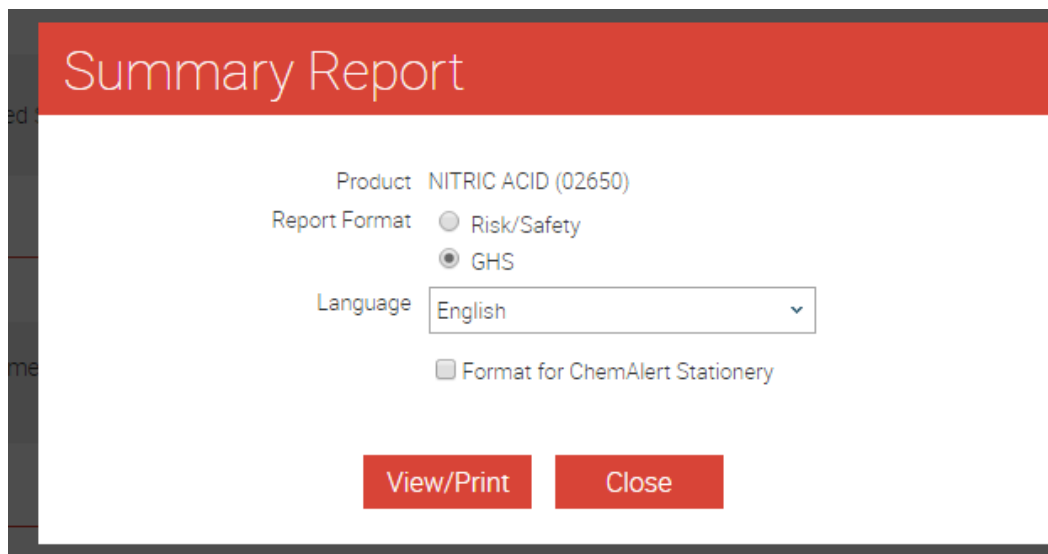## VIEWING AND PRINTING SAFETY DATA SHEETS

9. Select the **Reports** tab.
10. Select the **report type** you wish to view print. The following report types are available
    - Summary Report (1 Page)
    - Extended Summary Report (2 Page)
    - Full Report (16 Header Report NOHSC format)
    - GHS Report (This report gives detailed GHS information including all hazard and precautionary statements and codes).
    - Manufacturer SDS (SDS can be printed for other regions other than Australia)

11. Select the **report format**. GHS or Approved criteria risk and safety phrases can be selected for summary, extended and full reports.
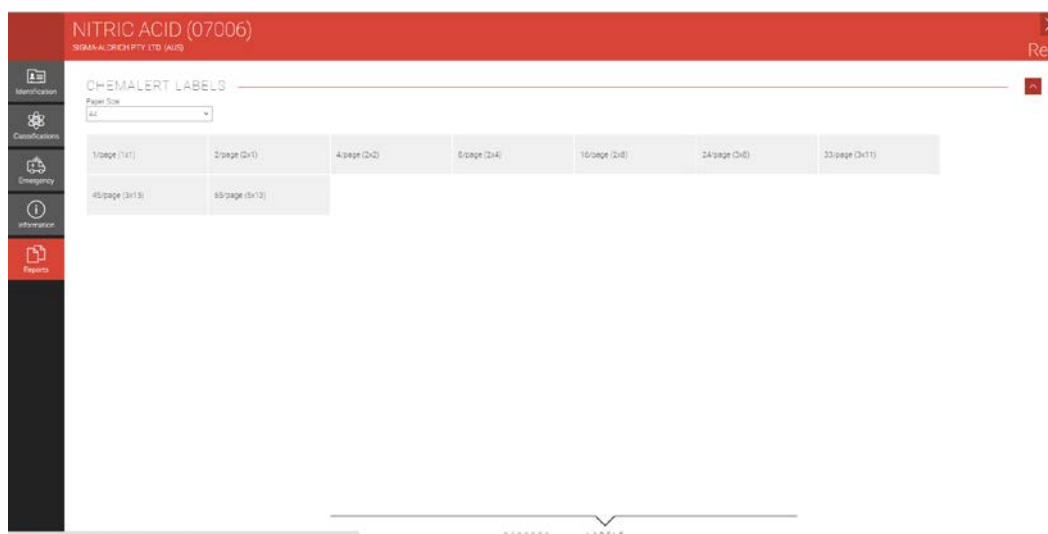

12. Click on "**View/Print**" button to generate the report.
13. ChemAlert will then prompt you to either view then print the document as a PDF file or save the file to disk.

PRINTING LABELS

ChemAlert labels for any chemical in the database can be printed directly onto an A4 sheet of sticky labels.

13. The **Report** tab is also used to select **labels** for differently sized chemical label templates.

14. Select the **label size**.

15. A preview of the label sheet will be given when "**view / print**" is selected. Labels can be saved as PDF or printed immediately. Position of a label on the sheet can be selected.

CHEMICAL COLOUR CODING

Both ChemAlert reports and labels are colour coded to indicate hazard severity of a chemical during normal use:

Red	high hazard
Amber	moderate hazard
Green	low hazard

ALTERNATE VIEWS

The standard view for search results is shown as a list. Using the icons at the bottom of this page will change the view.

This alternate view can be used to select and sort results.