Why choose SDS Manager

Using the SDS Manager MCP with Your AI Agent

1. What is this?

What is the SDS Manager MCP? SDS Manager provides an MCP (Model Context Protocol) server. MCP is an open standard that lets AI assistants connect to external tools and data. When you connect your AI agent to our MCP server, the agent can work with your SDS Manager account: search for Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), build your SDS library, organize products by location and more, all through normal conversation.

What is an MCP? Do I need to understand it? No. MCP is just the technology that lets AI tools "talk to" SDS Manager for you. Think of it as giving your AI assistant a set of keys to your SDS library. Just connect your AI agent and start chatting.

Which AI agents can I use? Any AI agent that supports MCP connections, for example:

- **Claude (Anthropic)**: claude.ai, Claude Desktop, Cowork and Claude Code
- **ChatGPT**: where your ChatGPT plan supports custom MCP connectors
- **Cursor, Windsurf, Cline**: AI agents for developers
- **Any other MCP-compatible client**

SDS Manager does not provide its own AI agent. We provide the MCP server; you bring the AI.

What can the AI agent do through the MCP?

Category	Capabilities
Setup & Onboarding	Guided onboarding checklist, step-by-step setup, request expert help from the SDS Manager team
Search	Search our global database of 30 million+ SDSs by product name, manufacturer, CAS number, language or region
Web Search Fallback	When an SDS is not in the global database, search the web for the PDF and import it
Add SDSs	Add from the global database, upload PDF files, add by URL
Import Product Lists	Upload Excel spreadsheets to import many products at once; validate, process and track the import status
Products Pending SDS	View products that don't have a linked SDS yet, search for matches and link them
Location Management	View your location hierarchy, create new locations (sites, departments, buildings)
Product Management	View the products in your library, see product details, edit product names and other product data
Move / Copy / Archive	Move SDSs between locations, copy them to several locations, archive SDSs you no longer need

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Category	Capabilities
Hazardous Substances	View products with ingredients on restricted or hazardous substance lists
Activity Logs	View the activity history of your account, a location or a product
Permissions & Limits	Check what you are allowed to do and your current usage limits

Who can use it? The MCP is available on the paid Premium, Pro and Enterprise plans. It is not available on the Free and Basic plans, or during the free trial; there, SDS Manager tells you that the feature is not included in your plan. You also need access to the Chat AI Agent: the owner of the account activates it under **MCP Server Access** on **Manage account**, and the owner or an admin gives other users access in **User management** (see below).

2. Getting your API key

Where do I find my API key?

1. Log in to SDS Manager at inventory.sdsmanager.com.
2. Click your profile picture at the top right and choose **Manage account**.
3. Open **MCP Server Access**. You see a masked **API Key** field. If you are the owner of the account and see **Activate user access to the Chat AI Agent** (or **Enable user access to the Chat AI Agent**), click **OK** first.
4. Click the copy icon next to the field to copy the key to your clipboard.

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The API key is unique to your user account and linked to your organization's subscription. Keep it secret.

Pick your AI app under the key to see its setup steps, with the MCP URL ready to copy. The same steps are in section 3 below.

I don't see MCP Server Access, or the copy button doesn't work. This means either:

- Your plan doesn't include MCP access: upgrade to Premium, Pro or Enterprise. MCP access is not available during the free trial.
- You don't have access to the Chat AI Agent yet: ask the owner of the account or an admin. They click **More** → **User management**, click ⋮ on your user and choose **Activate user access to the Chat AI Agent** (or **Enable user access to the Chat AI Agent**), then **OK**.

Can I regenerate my API key? Yes, for example if you think your key has leaked. In **Manage account** → **MCP Server Access**, click **Regenerate key** and confirm. Your current key stops working at once, and every AI app that uses it must be set up again with the new key. You can only regenerate your own key. If the button does not work for you, contact SDS Manager support. Read more: If I run into a problem, how can I report this problem and ask for help?

3. Connecting your AI agent

How do I connect? The general steps (they vary a little per AI tool):

1. Copy your API key from **Manage account** (see above).
2. In the settings of your AI agent, add a new MCP server (some tools call it a connector):
    - MCP server URL: https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp
    - Transport type: Streamable HTTP
    - Authentication: none. You log in to SDS Manager in the chat.
3. Start a conversation with your AI agent. Say something like "Help me set up my SDS library".
4. The agent gives you a login link. Open it, paste your API key in the **API Key** field and click **Login**.
5. When you see **Login Successful!**, go back to the chat. The agent confirms that you are logged in and shows your onboarding checklist.

The steps for each AI app are below. Where a command or file has a YOUR_API_KEY placeholder, that is the optional way to stay logged in: the app then sends your key with every call and you do not open the login link. Leave it out to log in through the browser link as described above.

Claude (claude.ai, Claude Desktop and Cowork)

1. In Claude, go to **Customize** → **Connectors**.
2. Click **+ Add**, then **Add custom connector**.
3. Enter a name, for example SDS Manager, and the URL https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp. Click **Continue**.
4. Under **Authentication**, choose **No sign in**: you log in to SDS Manager in the chat. Click **Add**.
5. Start a new conversation and ask Claude to help with your SDS library. Claude replies with a login link: open it and paste your API key there, not in the chat.

On Claude Team and Enterprise plans, an owner adds the connector under **Organization settings** → **Connectors**. Members then click **Connect** on it under **Customize** → **Connectors**. If **Add custom connector** is greyed out for you, ask the owner of your Claude organization to add it. See Claude's help on custom connectors.

ChatGPT

1. Go to **Settings** → **Apps & Connectors** → **Advanced settings** and turn on **Developer mode**.
2. Click **Create**. Name: SDS Manager. MCP server URL: https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp. Authentication: **No authentication**. Confirm that you

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trust the app and click **Create**.
3. In a new chat, open **+** → **Developer mode** and turn on **SDS Manager**.
4. Ask ChatGPT to help with your SDS library. Open the login link it shows and paste your API key on that page.

Developer mode is available on paid ChatGPT plans (Plus, Pro, Business, Enterprise, Edu), on the web. In Business and Enterprise an admin may need to allow it first. ChatGPT asks you to confirm each action that changes data.

Claude Code

Run this in your own terminal, not in the chat:

```
claude mcp add --transport http --scope user sds-manager https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp
```

Then start Claude Code and ask it to help with your SDS library: it gives you the login link. To stay logged in instead, add your key as a header:

```
claude mcp add --transport http --scope user sds-manager \
  https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp \
  --header "x-api-key: YOUR_API_KEY"
```

Check the connection with /mcp in a new session.

Cursor

Add the server to ~/.cursor/mcp.json and paste the file yourself:

```
{
  "mcpServers": {
    "sds-manager": {
      "url": "https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp",
      "headers": { "x-api-key": "YOUR_API_KEY" }
    }
  }
}
```

Leave out the headers line to log in through the browser link. Open **Customize** in the Cursor sidebar and check that sds-manager is enabled. More: Connecting with Cursor Desktop.

VS Code (GitHub Copilot agent mode)

Run this in a terminal:

```
code --add-mcp '{"name":"sds-manager","type":"http","url":"https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp"}'
```

Then open the Command Palette, run **MCP: List Servers** and start sds-manager. To stay logged in, open **MCP: Open User Configuration** and use this file. VS Code asks for the key once and stores it securely, so the key is never written in the file:

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```
{
  "inputs": [
    { "type": "promptString", "id": "sds-manager-key",
      "description": "SDS Manager API key", "password": true }
  ],
  "servers": {
    "sds-manager": {
      "type": "http",
      "url": "https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp",
      "headers": { "x-api-key": "${input:sds-manager-key}" }
    }
  }
}
```

Codex

Add this to ~/.codex/config.toml, then restart Codex and run /mcp to check that sds-manager is listed:

```
[mcp_servers.sds-manager]
url = "https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp"
http_headers = { "x-api-key" = "YOUR_API_KEY" }
```

Leave out the http_headers line to log in through the browser link. Older Codex versions only run local (stdio) servers. If Codex says HTTP servers are not supported, update Codex first.

Gemini CLI

Run this in your own terminal. It writes the server to ~/.gemini/settings.json:

```
gemini mcp add --transport http --scope user sds-manager https://sds-
mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp
```

To stay logged in, add the key as a header:

```
gemini mcp add --transport http --scope user \
  --header "x-api-key: YOUR_API_KEY" \
  sds-manager https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp
```

Run /mcp and check that sds-manager is connected.

Windsurf

In Cascade's MCP menu click **Open MCP config file**. It opens ~/.config/devin/mcp_config.json on macOS and Linux, and %AppData%/devin/mcp_config.json on Windows. Add the server and paste the file yourself:

```
{
  "mcpServers": {
    "sds-manager": {
      "serverUrl": "https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp",
```


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```
      "headers": { "x-api-key": "YOUR_API_KEY" }
    }
  }
}
```

Leave out the headers line to log in through the browser link. Then press the refresh button in Cascade's MCP menu and check that sds-manager is listed.

Other MCP client

- MCP server URL: https://sds-mcp.sdsmanager.com/support/mcp
- Transport: Streamable HTTP (not SSE, not stdio)
- Login, option 1: no authentication on the connection. Ask the AI to call get_login_url, then paste your API key on the login page.
- Login, option 2: send the header x-api-key with your API key on every request. No browser login.

Why does login happen through a browser link instead of typing the key into the chat? For security. Your API key is never sent through the AI agent's servers: you enter it directly on our secure login page. The AI agent only receives a session token after you log in.

4. Setting up your SDS library

What's the recommended first step? Ask your AI agent: "Help me get started" or "What should I do first?"

The agent shows your current library statistics and a setup checklist:

- Set up your location hierarchy: define your sites, departments and workplaces
- Import your SDSs: choose from several methods (see below)
- Or request expert setup: let the SDS Manager team do it for you

What are the different ways to build my SDS library?

Method	Best for	What the agent does
Search & Add	A small number of products (fewer than 50)	Searches the global database of 30 million+ SDSs and lets you pick matches and add them to a location
Upload SDS PDFs	You already have SDS files on your computer	Gives you an upload link; SDS Manager extracts the data automatically
Add SDS by URL	You have a direct link to an SDS PDF online	Downloads and processes the PDF from the URL you give
Import Product List (Excel)	A large number of products (50 or more)	You upload an Excel spreadsheet; the system creates the products and matches SDSs where possible
Web Search Fallback	The SDS is not in the global database	Searches the web for the SDS PDF, finds the download link and uploads it for you

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Method	Best for	What the agent does
Request Expert Setup	Any size, hands-off	The SDS Manager team sets up your whole library; you can give a link to your existing online SDS library

How do I import a product list from Excel?

1. Tell the agent: "I want to import my product list from an Excel file".
2. The agent gives you an upload link. Click it and select your .xlsx or .xls file.
3. The agent checks the data and shows a summary (column mapping, number of rows, any issues).
4. Confirm to process the file. Each row is either matched to an SDS or becomes a Product Pending SDS.
5. The agent then helps you find SDSs for the products without a match by searching the global database.

What is a "Product Pending SDS"? When you import a product list, or add a product that doesn't have a matching Safety Data Sheet yet, it appears as a Product Pending SDS. The AI agent can help you resolve these by:

- Searching the global database for a match
- Searching the web if the database has no match
- Letting you upload the SDS PDF yourself
- Or requesting expert help from the SDS Manager team

Once a match is confirmed, the SDS is linked and the product moves into your active library.

Can I track the status of my product list imports? Yes. Ask the agent:

- "Show me my imported product lists": lists all earlier imports with their status
- "Show me the summary of my last import": matched, pending and errors

5. Managing your library

How do I search for SDSs? Ask: "Find the SDS for [product name]" or "Search for [product name] from [manufacturer]".

You can also filter by:

- Language: "Find SDS for Acetone in German"
- Region: "Find SDS for Acetone EU version"
- Your own library: "Search my library for Acetone"

How do I view product details?

- For an SDS in the global database: "Show me details for this SDS" (after a search)
- For a product in your library: "Show me details for [product name] in my library"

Can I move or copy SDSs between locations? Yes, the agent can do both:

- Move: "Move [product name] from [Location A] to [Location B]". The SDS is removed from the first location.
- Copy: "Copy [product name] to [Location B]". The SDS stays on both locations.

For both, the agent first shows you what will happen and asks you to confirm.

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Can I archive SDSs? Yes: "Archive [product name] from [location]". Archiving removes the SDS from the active library but keeps the record. The agent asks you to confirm first.

Can I edit product information? Yes. You can change:

- The product name (your own display name)
- Chemical name synonyms (other names for the product)
- The external system ID (for integration with other systems)

Ask: "Update the product name for [product] to [new name]".

How do I check hazardous substances? Ask: "Show me products with ingredients on restricted lists" or "Which products in [location] are hazardous?"

6. Locations

How do I set up locations? Ask: "Show me my current locations" to see your hierarchy, then:

- "Add a new location called [name] under [parent location]"
- "I have 3 sites: Oslo office, Bergen warehouse, and Stavanger plant"

The agent creates the hierarchy and confirms the structure.

What if I only have one location? That's fine. Every SDS Manager account starts with a default location. The agent sees this during onboarding and skips the multi-location setup.

7. Permissions and limits

What permissions does the AI agent respect? The agent can only do what your user is allowed to do in SDS Manager:

Permission	What it controls
Access to the Chat AI Agent	Required for all MCP agent access
Add locations	Create new locations and sites
Import product lists	Upload Excel product lists
Add SDSs	Add SDSs to a location
Move SDSs	Move SDSs between locations
Edit SDSs	Edit product details
Archive SDSs	Archive SDSs

Your permissions to add, move, edit and archive can be different on each location. Ask the agent: "What are my permissions?" or "What can I do at [location name]?"

What usage limits exist?

Limit	Default	What it controls
Global database searches	200	Searches in the database of 30 million+ SDSs

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Limit	Default	What it controls
SDS detail views	200	Viewing the details of a specific SDS

Ask the agent: "What are my current limits?" to see how much you have left. To change your limits, contact SDS Manager support.

8. Troubleshooting

Session expired. Sessions time out after a period without activity. Say "Login again" and the agent gives you a new login link.

Authorization error.

- Your access to the Chat AI Agent may have been switched off: ask the owner of the account or an admin.
- Your plan may not include MCP access: upgrade to Premium, Pro or Enterprise. MCP access is not available during the free trial.

The agent can't find my SDS. Try in this order:

1. Other search terms (product name, supplier name, CAS number)
2. A shorter or more general product name
3. Ask: "Search the web for [product name] SDS". The agent finds PDFs online.
4. Upload the PDF yourself: "I want to upload an SDS PDF to [location]"
5. Ask for expert help: "Request expert setup"

The Excel import has errors. The agent shows the specific errors. Common issues:

- Missing required columns (product name)
- Unsupported file format (it must be .xlsx or .xls)
- Empty or malformed rows

Fix the file and upload it again.

I need help the agent can't give. Say "Request expert setup". You can give a link to your existing SDS library and add notes, and the SDS Manager team takes over.

9. Security and privacy

Is my API key safe? Yes. You enter your API key directly on the SDS Manager login page; it never passes through the AI agent's systems. The agent only receives a temporary session token.

What data does the AI agent see? Only the data that SDS Manager returns for your organization's account: product names, SDS details, locations and library statistics. It cannot see other customers' data or your billing information.

Are actions logged? Yes. All changes (add, move, copy, archive, edit) are recorded in the activity log. Ask "Show me my activity logs" to review them.

Are destructive actions protected? Yes. For add, move, copy and archive, the agent first shows you what will happen and asks you to confirm.

Unique solution ID: #5106

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