
**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF
DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY
HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION
AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS**

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Resolution
2005/...

Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1999/65 of 26 October 1999, 2001/34 of 26 July 2001, 2001/44 of 20 December 2001 and 2003/64 of 25 July 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals¹ during the biennium 2003-2004,

A

Work of the Committee regarding the transport of dangerous goods

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Committee for the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods,

Bearing in mind the need to maintain safety standards at all times and to facilitate trade, as well as the importance of this to the various organizations responsible for modal regulations, while meeting the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport,

Noting the increasing volume of dangerous goods being introduced into worldwide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

Recalling its resolution 1975 (LIX) of 30 July 1975 whereby it requested the Committee to study, in consultation with other bodies concerned, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the then Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the regional commissions, the possibility of a joint approach to the drafting of an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport which would take into account the general scope of a future convention on international intermodal transport,

Recalling also that in response to resolution 1975 (LIX) the Committee had, until now, considered that the consideration of such a convention would not be appropriate until the various international agreements or conventions governing international transport of dangerous goods had not been harmonized,

Noting that the major international instruments governing the transport of dangerous goods by the various modes of transport (IMDG Code, ICAO Technical

¹ E/2005/...

Instructions, ADR, RID, ADN) as well as many national regulations are now harmonized with the Model Regulations annexed to the Committee's Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, but that the lack of simultaneity in the updating process of national inland transport legislation in most countries of the world remains the major reason for regulatory disharmony at worldwide level and represents serious legislative obstacles to international multimodal transport,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals with respect to matters relating to the transport of dangerous goods, including their security in transport;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations² on the transport of dangerous goods to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish the fourteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*³ and amendments to the fourth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*⁴ in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 2005;

(c) To make these publications available on the web site of the Economic Commission for Europe⁵, which also provides secretariat services to the Committee, and to make them available also on CD-ROM;

3. *Invites* all Governments, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned to transmit to the secretariat of the Committee their views on the Committee's work, together with any comments that they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

4. *Invites* all interested Governments, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to take into account the recommendations of the Committee;

5. *Reiterates* its request to the Committee to study, in consultation with IMO, ICAO, regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations concerned, the possibility of a joint approach to the drafting of a convention on multimodal international transport of dangerous goods, or any other possibility of improving simultaneous implementation of the Model Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods in all countries for the purposes of ensuring a high level of safety and eliminating technical barriers to international trade.

B

Work of the Committee regarding the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Bearing in mind that the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) at its 2002 session in Johannesburg, in paragraph 23 (c) of its Plan of Implementation,⁶ encouraged countries to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008,

² ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.1 and 2.

³ ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.14.

⁴ ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4/Amendt.1.

⁵ www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm

⁶ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Bearing also in mind that the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, endorsed the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and requested the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Plan relevant to its mandate and, in particular, to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination,

Noting with satisfaction that

- (a) All United Nations programmes and specialized agencies concerned with chemical safety in the field of the transport or the environment, in particular UNECE, UNEP, IMO and ICAO have taken appropriate steps to amend or consider amending their legal instruments in order to give effect to the GHS;
- (b) ILO and WHO are also taking appropriate steps to adapt their existing chemical safety recommendations, codes and guidelines to the GHS in particular in the areas of occupational health and safety and prevention and treatment of poisoning respectively;
- (c) Members States participating in the activities of the GHS Sub-Committee as well as the European Commission, are actively preparing revisions of national or regional legislation applicable to chemicals for implementation of GHS;
- (d) Several United Nations programmes, specialized agencies, regional organization, in particular UNITAR, ILO, WHO, UNECE, APEC, IFCS, Governments, the European Commission and non-governmental organizations representing the chemical industry have organized or contributed to multiple workshops, seminars and other capacity building activities at international, regional, sub-regional and national levels in order to raise administration, health sector and industry awareness and to prepare implementation of the GHS,

Aware that effective implementation by the 2008 target will require further cooperation between the GHS Sub-Committee and international bodies concerned, continued efforts by the Governments of the Member States, cooperation with the industry and other affected parties, and significant support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition and developing countries,

Recalling the particular significance of the UNITAR/ILO/OECD Global Partnership for Capacity-Building to implement the GHS for building capacities at all levels,

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the publication of the GHS in the six official languages of the United Nations, in book form⁷ and on CD-ROM, and its availability together with related information material on the website of the UNECE⁸;
2. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Committee, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other organizations concerned for their fruitful cooperation and their commitment to the implementation of the GHS;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General
 - (a) to circulate the amendments⁹ to the GHS to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned;
 - (b) to publish the first revised edition¹⁰ of the GHS in all the official languages of the United Nations in the most cost effective manner not later than the end of 2005, and to make it available on CD-ROM and on the web site of the Economic Commission for Europe, which provides secretariat services to the Committee;

⁷ [to be completed]

⁸ [to be completed]

⁹ ST/SG/AC.10/32/Add.[3].

¹⁰ ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.1.

4. *Invites* Governments who have not yet done so to take the necessary steps, through appropriate national procedures and/or legislation, to implement the GHS, as recommended in the WSSD Plan of implementation;
5. *Re-iterates also its invitation* to the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to promote the implementation of the GHS and, where relevant, to amend their respective legal international instruments addressing transport safety, work safety, consumer protection or the protection of the environment so as to give effect to the GHS through such instruments;
6. *Invites* Governments, the regional commissions, United Nations programmes, the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned to provide feedback on implementation to the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;
7. *Encourages* Governments, regional commissions, United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, in particular industry, to strengthen their support to the implementation of the GHS by providing financial contributions to capacity-building activities in developing countries and countries in transition and/or technical assistance.

[C

Programme of work of the Committee

Taking note of the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2005-2006 as contained in paragraphs .. to .. of the report of the Secretary-General,¹¹

Noting the relatively poor representation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee and the need to ensure their wider participation in its work,

Noting with concern that the GS staff resources requested for the activities of the GHS Sub-Committee when it was established and which had been provided through general temporary assistance until end 2004 have been suppressed in 2004, irrespective of the recommendations made by the Committee at its first session .¹²

1. *Decides* to approve the programme of work of the Committee;
2. *Stresses* the importance of the participation of experts from developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in the work of the Committee, and calls, in this regard, for voluntary contributions to facilitate their participation, including through support for travel and daily subsistence allowance, and invites Member States and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to re-allocate appropriate GS staff resources for the activities of the Committee;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in 2005 on the implementation of the present resolution, the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the GHS.]

¹¹ E/2005/...

¹² E/2003/46, para. 33.