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

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally
Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals

Fifteenth session, 9-11 July 2008
Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

Reports from Governments or organizations

Transmitted by the expert from South Africa

South Africa

Focal points:	<p>Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism: http://www.environment.gov.za/ Department of Transport: http://www.transport.gov.za/ Department of Labour: http://www.labour.gov.za/ South Africa Bureau of Standards: https://www.sabs.co.za/ Department of Trade and Industry: http://www.thedti.gov.za/</p>
Relevant legislation:	<p><u>Hazardous Substances Act No.15 of 1973</u> <u>Hazardous Chemical Substances Regulations (1995) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act No.55 of 1993</u> <u>National Environmental Management Act No. 10 of 1998</u></p>
GHS implementation milestones (all sectors)	<p>Following the promulgation of the GHS regulation, an inter-departmental committee will be established by the Department of Labour to develop a coordinated legislative implementation strategy to ensure elimination of overlap of jurisdictional mandates. The harmonized legislative implementation strategy will include compliance and enforcement requirements, appropriate budget allocations, support to industry for transition and establishment of a permanent approach to ongoing input into international discussions and alignment of the effective dates of all legislative amendments.</p>
	<p>Transport of dangerous goods legislation in South Africa is based on the UN Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. For international transport of dangerous goods, see <u>Implementation through international legal instruments, recommendations, codes and guidelines</u></p>
2002-2003:	<p>Participation as pilot country in the UNITAR/ILO Global GHS Capacity Building Programme; A study on the implications of implementing the GHS and the development of an implementation strategy was concluded in December 2003. As part of this study an implementation plan was prepared under the auspices of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) and co-funded and supported by UNITAR;</p>
2007:	<p>Review of legislation (for classification and labelling of chemicals and Safety Data Sheets) as well as policy instruments to ensure alignment with the GHS requirements.</p> <p>Standards South Africa, a division of the South African Bureau of Standards developed a national standard (SANS 10234:2007 - "Globally Harmonized System of classification and labelling of chemicals") that will be referred to in the above-mentioned legislation. The South African National standard for GHS is being used as the basis for the development of a harmonized SADC standard by the Southern African Community Standardization body (SADCSTAN).</p> <p>Draft GHS legislation released for <u>public comment</u>. The draft GHS Regulation makes provision for a five-year transition period. It provides that compliance with the National GHS Standard and the current national system is allowed during the transition period so that the transition at a national level is facilitated while at the same time accommodating international trade requirements.</p>

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2008 (expected activities and outcomes):	<p>Public comments on the draft GHS legislation were received and are currently being consolidated.</p> <p>Stakeholder/Client awareness workshops will be held in August and December. Awareness raising is undertaken at all forums dealing with chemical safety and once the Regulations have been promulgated, Programme focused on employers will be launched.</p> <p>The finalized draft GHS legislation will be submitted to the Minister for promulgation in August. GHS training will form an integral part of the safety, health and environment (SHE) unit standards currently being developed by a Working Group established by the Chemical Industries' Education and Training Authority (CHIETA). The training issues raised in the implementation strategy should be referred to the SHE Unit Standard Working Group. GHS elements will form an integral part of a program of accreditation of Health, Safety and the Environment (HSE). Specific courses to empower workers in understanding the elements of GHS within a specific Occupational Health and Safety focus should be developed.</p> <p>Work is currently underway to develop a list of chemicals classified in terms of the GHS to facilitate implementation.</p>
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