

## 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,  
Geneva, 9-11 July 2008  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

#### Reports from Governments or organizations

##### Implementation update

##### Transmitted by the expert from Brazil

### **1. Introduction**

The Brazilian government, through its Ministries, Agencies, Institutions and Foundations is working towards the implementation of the GHS. This task started in 2001 and since then dozens of activities were developed: national workshops, a South American Workshop, training courses, aware raising seminars, presentations in events, process for the translation of the Purple Book into Portuguese, etc.

Non-governmental organization, especially from industry, developed many activities over the last few years: organization of events, elaboration of GHS informational material, impact analysis studies, etc.

### **2. GT-GHS Brazil**

The President of Brazil signed a Decree in 26<sup>th</sup> July 2007 formalizing the GT-GHS Working Group, which will have the responsibility to elaborate and propose strategies, guidelines, programs and plans of action.

The institutions have already nominated their representatives and the first meeting took place on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008 followed by the second on 26<sup>th</sup> June, in Brasilia. The third is scheduled for 31<sup>th</sup> July.

The discussions are now on the Rules and Terms of Reference. Following these tasks decisions on implementation issues will be made (revision of legislation to be in line with GHS, transitional period, Building Block Approach, etc.).

### **3. Training**

In the second semester of 2008 the continuation of the GHS one-week training course will be planned in Rio de Janeiro or Brasilia.

### **4. Translation of the Purple Book into Portuguese**

The process of translation of the Purple Book into Portuguese, sponsored by The Ministry of Health, is continuing.

In the first semester 2008 three meetings took place – two in Brasilia and one in Sao Paulo - for the harmonization of the translation of expressions and certain words, with the participation of more than 12 governmental and private institutions.

Translations of the chapters are in the final process of revision and will be published on the web. The printed version will be published later.

### **5. Workshop**

The “GHS Workshop for Governmental institutions” was held in Brasilia (5<sup>th</sup> March 2008), with the participation of representatives of 12 Brazilian institutions directly involved in the implementation of the GHS – Health, Labour, Environment, Transport, Trade, Agriculture, Defense, etc -.

The ceremony was opened by the Head of General-Coordination of Health and Environmental Surveillance (Ministry of Health) and the Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Department (Ministry of Labour).

### **6. Public Consultation**

The Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT), through the Commission of Studies of Information on Safety, Health and Environment related to Chemicals (CB-10), issued the following standards which are based on GHS Purple Book for public comments:

Project 10:101.05-002 – Labelling of Chemicals

Project 10:101.05-003 – Classification of Chemicals

Project 10:101.05-004 – Terminology

Project ABNT NBR 14725 - update of the Chemical Safety Data Sheet

### **7. International Participation**

Participation, as observer, of a representative of INMETRO in the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the OECD Task Force on Harmonization of Classification and Labelling (24- 25 April), in Paris.

### **8. Other activities**

The project to verify the quality and consistency of Safety Data Sheets, in five sectors, and its use in the workplace, using the Annex 4 of the Purple Book as a basis, is on-going.

Meetings of the Confidential Business Information (CBI) Subgroup took place in Sao Paulo.

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