

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

9 December 2010

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Geneva, 7–9 December 2010

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for the biennium 2011–2012

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2011–2012

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

1. The secretariat has compiled in this document, for consideration of the Sub-Committee, the items in its programme of work for 2009–2010 which have not been completed during that period and which may need to be carried over during the next biennium together with the new items for which a request to be included in its work programme for 2011–2012 has already been made at the time of writing.

2. The Sub-Committee may wish to consider the proposed items as a basis for discussion of its programme of work for 2011–2012.

Proposal

1. Work on classification criteria and implementation classification issues

- (a) Explosives and related matters, including but not limited to, classification of desensitized explosives (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, paragraph 13).

For the work on classification of desensitized explosives:

Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee

Lead country: Germany

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/26 paragraphs 15-17

- (b) Corrosion to metals: Consider pitting corrosion and suitability of Test C.1 for solids¹

Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee

Lead country: France

Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.16 (16th session)

¹ Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010.

(c) Water activated toxicity¹

Work on test method N.5 for the assessment of water activated toxicity, in relation to:

- the accurate and precise measurement of gas evolution rates for substances which in contact with water emit flammable or toxic gases;
- its possible application to substances which in contact with water emit corrosive gases;
- the improvement of the reproducibility of test results; and
- its suitability as a new method for the development of classification criteria, as appropriate.

Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee

Lead country: Germany

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/19, paragraph 6, ~~and~~ INF.18 (16th session) paragraph 8 **and INF.19 (20th session).**

(d) Classification of oxidizing solids

- Improvement of Test method O.1 as regards:
 - the replacement of potassium bromate as the reference substance for the test by a less hazardous substance;
 - the use of a method based on a gravimetric procedure instead of the subjective measurement of the burning time as a more objective means of assessing the results;
- Interpretation of the concept of “known experience” as used in the context of the UN Model Regulations (Chapter 2.5, paragraph 2.5.2.1.1), the Manual of Tests and Criteria (section 34) and the GHS (Chapter 2.14, paragraph 2.14.4.2).
- Consideration of other factors that may have an influence in the classification results such as friability and particle size

Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/74, paragraphs 102–106 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, paragraph 18.

(e) Editorial revision of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 (skin corrosion/irritation)²

- Consider the detailed review documents prepared by the OECD expert groups during the development of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3;
- Editorially revise Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 to improve clarity and user-friendliness of the criteria;
- Examine whether particular criteria need further alignment/adjustment with respect to the internal consistency of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 and develop proposals for any minor necessary amendments;

¹ Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010.

² Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010, as amended to take into account the extended mandate given to the group at the 19th session of the Sub-Committee.

- Provide guidance on the evaluation of data on skin and eye irritation from studies conducted with more than three animals;

Lead country: Germany

Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.42 (16th session); ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/22; ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, paragraph 27 and INF.41 (19th session)

- (f) Work of the informal correspondence group on practical classification issues on matters related to the classification of substances and mixtures¹

Focal point: Informal correspondence group on practical classification issues

Lead country: United States of America

Terms of reference: INF.39 (16th session)

- (g) Corrosivity criteria: Further alignment of corrosivity criteria in Class 8 of the UN Model Regulations with the GHS criteria

- Verify the definition of “skin destruction” as mentioned in the Model Regulation on the transport of dangerous goods complemented with reference to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) test guidelines. If the definition is not aligned with paragraph 3.2.2.4.1 in Chapter 3.2 of the GHS, propose appropriate improvements;
- Identify and analyse the discrepancies between assignment to subcategories 1A, 1B and 1C, based on in vitro and in vivo testing and alternative approaches (bridging principles, mixtures calculations, pH...);
- Identify differences in assignment to categories in lists provided by different regulations and guidance documents for a few representative common substances. Analyse the underlying data and origin of these differences and use these results for the work under paragraphs 4 (a), (b), and (d);
- Check the way OECD guidelines are referenced and their relevance;
- Report findings and make recommendations that meet the need of all sectors with the aim of achieving consistent classification outcomes for skin corrosivity.

Focal point: Joint (TDG-GHS) informal correspondence group on corrosivity criteria

Lead country: United Kingdom

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, paragraphs 71–72 and INF.42 (20th session)

- (h) Dust explosion hazards

- Continue to compile and analyze the dust explosion hazard survey responses received from the heads of delegation from the member countries and the NGO representatives;
- Identify common themes in the responses and missing information;
- Determine the follow-up required to capture any missing information;
- Determine what and how information (if any) should be conveyed in the GHS.

Lead country: United States of America

¹ Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010.

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2010/8³

- (i) Aspiration hazard - viscosity criterion for classification of mixtures

Lead organisation: IPPIC

Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.28 (20th session)

2. Proposals addressing hazard communication issues

- (a) Revision of section 9 of Annex 4 of the GHS

Lead country: Germany

Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, par. 38 and INF.40 (19th session)

- (b) Labelling of small packagings⁴

Development of guidance and/or examples on the application of the general principles for the labelling of small packagings

Lead organisation: CEFIC

Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/26, paragraph 5, as amended by INF.41 (16th session) INF.17 (20th session)

- (c) Improvement of Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS¹

Pursue work to further improve Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS, following the work streams hereafter, with the first two given priority:

- Work stream 1: to develop proposals to rationalize and improve the usability of hazard and precautionary statements, including proposals to eliminate redundancies among these statements;
- Work stream 2: to adjust as appropriate the precautionary statements for physical hazards, their allocation to hazard classes and categories, and their conditions for use;
- Work stream 3: to improve the presentation of Annexes 1 to 3 of the GHS, taking into account the intended audiences, uses and purposes of the GHS.

Lead country: United Kingdom

Terms of reference: ~~ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/24, par. 25, as amended~~ INF.43 (20th session).

3. Implementation issues

- (a) Consider any proposal addressing implementation issues (including, but not limited to:

³ Document to be considered by the Sub-Committee at its 20th session.

⁴ Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010, as amended to take into account the progress made during the biennium.

¹ Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010.

- (i) Those resulting from the work of the informal correspondence group on implementation issues lead by Australia, as described in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/28, annex 2; ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/32, par.72)¹;
- (ii) Issues related to the possible development of a global list of chemicals classified according to the GHS
- Lead country: United States of America
- Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2010/20.
- (b) Facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS in countries and monitor the status of implementation of the GHS¹.
- (c) Cooperate with other bodies or international organizations responsible for the administration of international agreements and conventions dealing with the management of chemicals so as to give effect to the GHS through such instruments¹.

4. Development of guidance on the application of the GHS criteria

- (a) Consider any proposal for the development of guidance on the application of GHS criteria
- (b) Work of the informal correspondence group on practical classification issues on matters related to the clarification of the application of the GHS criteria through, for example:
- development of examples illustrating application of criteria and any related hazard communication issues, as needed, and
 - development of guidance to address the needs of IMO as regards the information to be included in the SDS.

Focal point: Informal correspondence group on practical classification issues

Lead country: United States of America

Terms of reference: INF.39 (16th session) and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, paragraphs 73–76).

5. Capacity building

Review reports on training and capacity-building activities¹.

Provide assistance to United Nations programmes and specialized agencies involved in training and capacity-building activities, such as UNITAR, ILO, FAO and WHO/IPCS through the development of guidance materials, advice with respect to their training programmes and identification of available expertise and resources¹.

¹ Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010.