

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

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Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS): physical hazards

Editorial correction to the flow-chart in Chapter 2.1, Figure 2.1.3 for explosives

Transmitted by the expert from Sweden

Introduction

1. With the third revised edition of the GHS, changes were introduced to the flow-chart in Figure 2.1.3 (“Procedure for assignment to a division in the class of explosives (Class 1 for transport)”), see ST/SG/AC.10/36/Add.3. These changes were consequential to changes made in the corresponding flow-chart of the Manual of Tests and Criteria, see ST/SG/AC.10/36/Add.2.

2. While the Model Regulations generally use the wording “substance” to mean both substances and mixtures, the GHS generally explicitly uses “substances and mixtures” or similar expressions. This is also the case in the flow-charts for Explosives – at least it was up until the 3rd revised edition of the GHS.

Problem

3. While the first two flow-charts for Explosives in the 4th revised edition of the GHS, Figures 2.1.1 and 2.1.2, consistently use “substance/mixture” whenever both are meant, this is not the case in the flow-chart of Figure 2.1.3. This inconsistency was introduced already in the 3rd revised edition of the GHS, while in the 2nd revised edition the wording “substance/mixture” was used also in this figure.

4. Although it is quite clear that both substances and mixtures are meant also in Figure 2.1.3, the inconsistent wording compared to that used in Figures 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 may lead to some confusion. Therefore the wording in the flow-chart of Figure 2.1.3 should be aligned with that of the two preceding flow-charts.

Proposal

5. Wherever the word “substance” appears in the boxes of the flow-chart in Figure 2.1.3, replace it by “substance/mixture”.

6. The proposed change is editorial in nature and intends to correct a mistake. Sweden therefore asks that the proposed change be adopted and reflected in the next revised edition of the GHS.
