

**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**

6 July 2012

**Twenty-third session**

Geneva, 4 (p.m) – 6 July 2012

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the GHS:  
implementation issues**

**Revised guiding principles for developing a global list of  
classified chemicals**

**Transmitted by the United States of America on behalf of the informal  
correspondence group on practical classification issues**

The guiding principles presented below have been updated to reflect the comments from the working group meeting held during the twenty-third session of the Sub-Committee.

**Guiding principles**

Proposed guiding principles:

- (a) [The development of a global list is compatible with the GHS principle of self-classification since the list will be non-binding \(see \(f\) below\).](#) The process for developing and maintaining a global list must be clear, [transparent and](#) follow the principles of the GHS. [Opportunities should be provided](#) for stakeholders, [including stakeholders without UN status](#), to provide input electronically, as well as a mechanisms for expert review, conflict resolution [and updating the list when new data becomes available](#).
- (b) All GHS hazard categories and classes must be included in the global list of classified chemicals.<sup>1</sup>
- (c) Only substances, [as defined by the GHS](#), will be included on the global list of classified chemicals;
- (d) All substances must be accurately identifiable and described for each entry (e.g. including Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Numbers (CAS numbers) and relevant impurities).
- (e) The data sets forming the basis for the chemical classification must be referenced with the classification. The source of the information must also be

<sup>1</sup> [Development of the global list needs to involve priority setting and proceeding in a stepwise fashion. While the ultimate goal is to include all GHS classes/categories an interim step may include a phased in approach. The pilot program being proposed for the next biennium will not require that substances be selected in order to have all hazard classes/categories covered.](#)

electronic, readily available, and publicly accessible. [The data used for the classification should be based on sound scientific principles.](#)

- (f) [The global list of chemical classifications will be non-binding.](#) As with the GHS itself, countries will have the option to make the list binding if they adopt it through their legislative and/or regulatory process.
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