



**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****Thirty-second session**

Geneva, 7-9 December 2016

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Hazard communication issues: improvement of annexes 1 to 3
and further rationalization of precautionary statements****Precautionary statements on medical advice/attention:
correction of linguistic discrepancies****Transmitted by the European Union¹****Background**

1. At the thirty-first session of the Sub-Committee, inconsistencies between the different linguistic versions of P313, P314 and P315 and the related conditions for use were raised and discussed.²
2. These inconsistencies were first introduced in the fifth revised edition of GHS, when a new condition for use was added, requiring the manufacturer/supplier or the competent authority to select either "medical advice" or "medical attention". As the distinction between medical advice and medical attention is not clear in all linguistic versions, notably Russian and Spanish, the condition for use is nonsensical in those versions, unless the precautionary statement is changed accordingly (as was done in the French language version) (see overview of the issue in the Annex). However, the meaning and intended purpose of the distinction are unclear in the English version, thereby making it difficult to find corresponding translations.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2015–2016 approved by the Committee at its seventh session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/92, paragraph 95 and ST/SG/AC.10/42, para. 15).

² Refer to informal document INF.19 (thirty-first session).

3. At the thirty-first session, several experts suggested that a broader discussion on the coherence between medical precautionary statements should take place in the next biennium within the informal correspondence group on the improvement of annexes 1 to 3.

4. Nevertheless, as a short-term solution is needed to resolve the linguistic inconsistencies, the Sub-Committee was asked to comment on the intended purpose of the distinction between medical advice and attention and to indicate whether this distinction brings any benefit to consumers and workers. The experts of the Sub-Committee were invited to provide comments to the representative of the European Union and to the secretariat. As no written comments were received, it is concluded that the added value of the distinction between medical advice and attention is questionable.

Action requested

5. Taking account of the discussion at its thirty-first session, the Sub-Committee is invited to approve the proposed changes to the entries of P313, P314 and P315 in order to correct the aforementioned linguistic inconsistencies.

Proposal

6. To harmonise the text of P313, P314 and P315 in all linguistic versions, the words "or attention" are removed. This avoids the unclear distinction between "medical advice" and "medical attention" and the need for a condition for use. The condition for use is removed accordingly in all linguistic versions.

7. As a result, the precautionary statements will read as shown in the table below.

	P313	P314	P315
EN	Get medical advice	Get medical advice if you feel unwell	Get immediate medical advice
FR	Consulter un médecin	Consulter un médecin en cas de malaise	Consulter immédiatement un médecin
ES	Consultar a un médico	Consultar a un médico si la persona se encuentra mal	Buscar asistencia médica inmediata
RU	Обратиться к врачу	В случае плохого самочувствия обратиться к врачу.	Немедленно обратиться к врачу.
CH	就诊	如感觉不适，须就诊	立即就诊

P315	P314	P313	AR
تطلب فوراً استشارة طبية	تطلب استشارة طبية في حالة الشعور بتوعك	تطلب استشارة طبية	

Note by the secretariat: Although they were not included in the original proposal, the Chinese and Arabic versions have been included here with the agreement of the representative of the European Union. Arabic and Chinese speaking experts are invited to confirm whether the proposed text is correct.

8. This does not preclude a broader discussion on medical precautionary statements within the informal correspondence group on the improvement of annexes 1 to 3 in the next biennium, in particular concerning the relation between the precautionary statements P310-P312 and P313-P315.

Annex

Overview of the issue in the different linguistic versions of the fifth revised edition of GHS:

	P313 in rev. 4	P313 in rev. 5	Condition for use in rev. 5	Issue in rev. 5
EN	Get medical advice/attention	<i>Unchanged</i>	Manufacturer/supplier or the competent authority to select medical advice or attention as appropriate	Lack of clarity for duty holder; distinction between medical advice/attention is unclear
FR	Consulter un médecin	Demander un avis medical/Consulter un médecin	Il revient au fabricant/fournisseur ou à l'autorité compétente de sélectionner la mention (demander ou consulter) appropriée	-----
ES	Consultar a un médico	<i>Unchanged</i>	El fabricante/proveedor o la autoridad competente seleccionarán, según proceda, el asesoramiento o la atención médica que hayan de prestarse.	Inconsistency: Condition for use does not match the precautionary statement
RU	Обратиться к врачу	<i>Unchanged</i>	Изготовителю/поставщику или компетентному органу в соответствующих случаях надлежит определить необходимость обращения за консультацией или помощью к врачу.	Inconsistency: Condition for use does not match the precautionary statement