

## 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 6 of the provisional agenda

### **Draft programme of work of the Sub-Committee for the biennium 2007-2008**

- I. Continue activities to determine when guidance may be needed on the application of the GHS
- II. Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:
  - (a) Work on physical hazards
    - (i) Develop a proposal for the classification and labelling of chemically unstable gases including a test method intended to evaluate chemical instability of gases or gas mixtures (in cooperation with the Sub-committee of experts on the TDG);
    - (ii) Consider possible solutions to address the classification of desensitized explosives (in cooperation with the Sub-committee of experts on the TDG);
  - (b) Work on health hazards
    - (i) Pursue work on classification criteria for substances which, in contact with water, release toxic/corrosive gases;
    - (ii) Continue to examine the available information concerning strong versus weak sensitizers and, if appropriate, propose revisions to the classification criteria for respiratory and/or dermal sensitization (in cooperation with OECD);
  - (c) Work on environmental hazards
    - (i) Complete the work on the improvement of the classification criteria to accommodate chronic toxicity to aquatic organisms (in cooperation with OECD);
    - (ii) Pursue the work on the development of criteria for the classification and labelling of substances and mixtures hazardous for the terrestrial environment (in cooperation with OECD);
    - (iii) Pursue the work on the development of classification and labelling criteria for Ozone Depleting Substances and mixtures in cooperation with the Conference of Parties to the Montreal Protocol (in cooperation with the OECD);
    - (iv) Complete work on validation of the transformation/dissolution protocol for metals (in cooperation with OECD);

- (d) Work on hazard communication issues
  - [(i) Pursue the work on the development of guidance on the interpretation of the building block approach];
  - (ii) Initiate the work on the development of a proposal to define a hierarchy applicable to the label elements of chemicals presenting multiple hazards;
  - (iii) Pursue work to further improve Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS, including consideration of the development of combined hazard statements and combined precautionary statements, and proposals to eliminate current redundancies in some precautionary statements;
  - (v) Develop a proposal to address labelling of very small packagings;

### III. GHS implementation

- (a) Continue the activities to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS in Member Countries;
- (b) Continue the cooperation with the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for matters of common concerns;
- (c) Strengthen and increase cooperation with United Nations programmes, specialized agencies, regional, governmental and intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental 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 instruments;
- (d) Review reports on training and capacity-building activities;
- (e) 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 resources.

**Work plan for the OECD Task Force on Harmonization of Classification and Labelling:  
activities for the biennium 2007-2008**

Work activity	Mandate	Timeframe		Deliverables
		Start	Complete	
Strong <i>versus</i> weak sensitizers		2003	End 2007	Proposal
Chronic aquatic toxicity	+	2003	End 2007	Proposal
Terrestrial environmental hazards	+ (see note 1)	2003	After 2008	Progress report at the end of the biennium
Transformation/ Dissolution	+	Before 2003	End 2007	Validation summary reports (phase 1 and 2)
Ozone Depleting Substances and mixtures	+	2004	End 2007	Proposal

**Note 1:** Mandate given by the Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS for the development of criteria for classification and labelling of substances and mixtures hazardous to the terrestrial environment:

1. To review existing systems (including those in place for pesticides in some countries) and evaluate the potential benefits of harmonizing classification;
2. To consider hazard communication needs, options and alternatives for coverage of terrestrial hazards in the workplace, in transport and for consumer products;
3. To examine possibilities for the development of a generic scheme for the classification of substances and mixtures as hazardous for the terrestrial environment under the GHS, taking into account the issues and options identified in previous documents, in particular, ENV/JM/HCL(2004)3 REV and UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.5, as well as other alternatives that may be presented to the expert group;
4. To identify additional scientific issues that should be further investigated and to formulate specific questions for getting information on relevant gaps. The expert group may also identify relevant scientific bodies that could cooperate in addressing these specific questions.

Discussion on numeric criteria and classification of mixtures will be postponed for the future.

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