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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

Fourteenth session,
Geneva, 12-14 December 2007
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

Draft terms of reference for the informal working group on GHS implementation issues

Transmitted by the experts from Australia, Canada, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom,
the United States of America and the World Health Organization

Background

At its 13th session, the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS Sub-Committee) welcomed a proposal from the expert from Australia that an official document on implementation issues related to the GHS be brought back for the consideration of the Sub-Committee at the 14th meeting in December 2007. A formal paper (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/11) is available for the consideration of the Sub-Committee. Work on implementation of the GHS is included in the work plan for the 2007-08 biennium (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/24, page 16, Annex 2).

Paper ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/11 proposes that, to facilitate a more useful and targeted exchange of information relating to GHS implementation, a working group on GHS implementation be formed, which could meet or exchange information by email or internet between GHS Sub-Committee sessions, and/or meet face-to-face in the margins of GHS Sub-Committee or other international meetings, to assist in delivering outcomes for the current work plan.

Proposal

This document proposes the following Terms of Reference, schedule and course of action for the working group on implementation. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the Terms of Reference when considering the proposal in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/11.

Scope: Implementation of the GHS

Tasks

1. To assist countries in implementing the GHS in a consistent and timely manner by:
 1. Facilitating exchange of information relating to GHS implementation in member countries;
 2. Providing a forum for discussion for particular issues faced by specific sectors and allowing the sharing of information from experiences on sector-specific GHS implementation dealing with, for example, consumer chemicals, transport, workplace, etc;

3. Identifying general issues arising in the implementation of GHS, such as building block approaches, problems relating to specific hazard classes or categories, transitional arrangements, and training;
4. Providing feedback to the Sub-Committee on a regular basis, where appropriate with recommendations on measures to facilitate implementation of the GHS.

Project lead: Australia

Membership: Current members Australia, Canada, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the World Health Organization. Membership is open to other Sub-Committee members by expression of interest to the lead country.

Schedule: A meeting by correspondence and/or by teleconference (depending on the size of the working group) will be organized between sessions and a face-to-face meeting of the group held in the margins of each Sub-Committee meeting. Members can also take the opportunity to meet in the margins of other international meetings.

Course of action: A report of issues from the group will be presented to the Sub Committee at each session.
