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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

Fifteenth session,  
Geneva, 9-11 July 2008  
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

**UPDATING OF THE SECOND REVISED EDITION OF THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED  
SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)**

Health hazards

Proposal for amendment of Chapter 3.8 (Decision logics)

Transmitted by the expert from Germany<sup>\*/</sup>

**A. Introduction**

1. As the GHS is already implemented in some countries and will be implemented in several regions in the year to come, it appears that comprehensibility and feasibility are prerequisites to establish harmonized procedures in classification and labelling.

2. In the course of gaining experience with the GHS criteria, a problem was identified when using the decision logics in chapter 3.8. of the GHS. It was recognized that narcotic

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<sup>\*/</sup> *In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2007-2008 approved by the Committee at its third session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/24, Annex 2 and ST/SG/AC.10/34, para. 14).*

effects and respiratory tract irritation (i.e. Category 3 STOT after single exposure) depict different hazards compared to Categories 1 or 2 and therefore Category 3 cannot be a consequence of Categories 1 or 2. In this respect the decision logics need to be amended.

3. This document contains the proposal for amendment to the respective decision logics of chapter 3.8

## **B. Background**

4. Using the decision logics given in chapter 3.8.5 of the second revised edition of the UN GHS (2007), the following procedure is assumed:

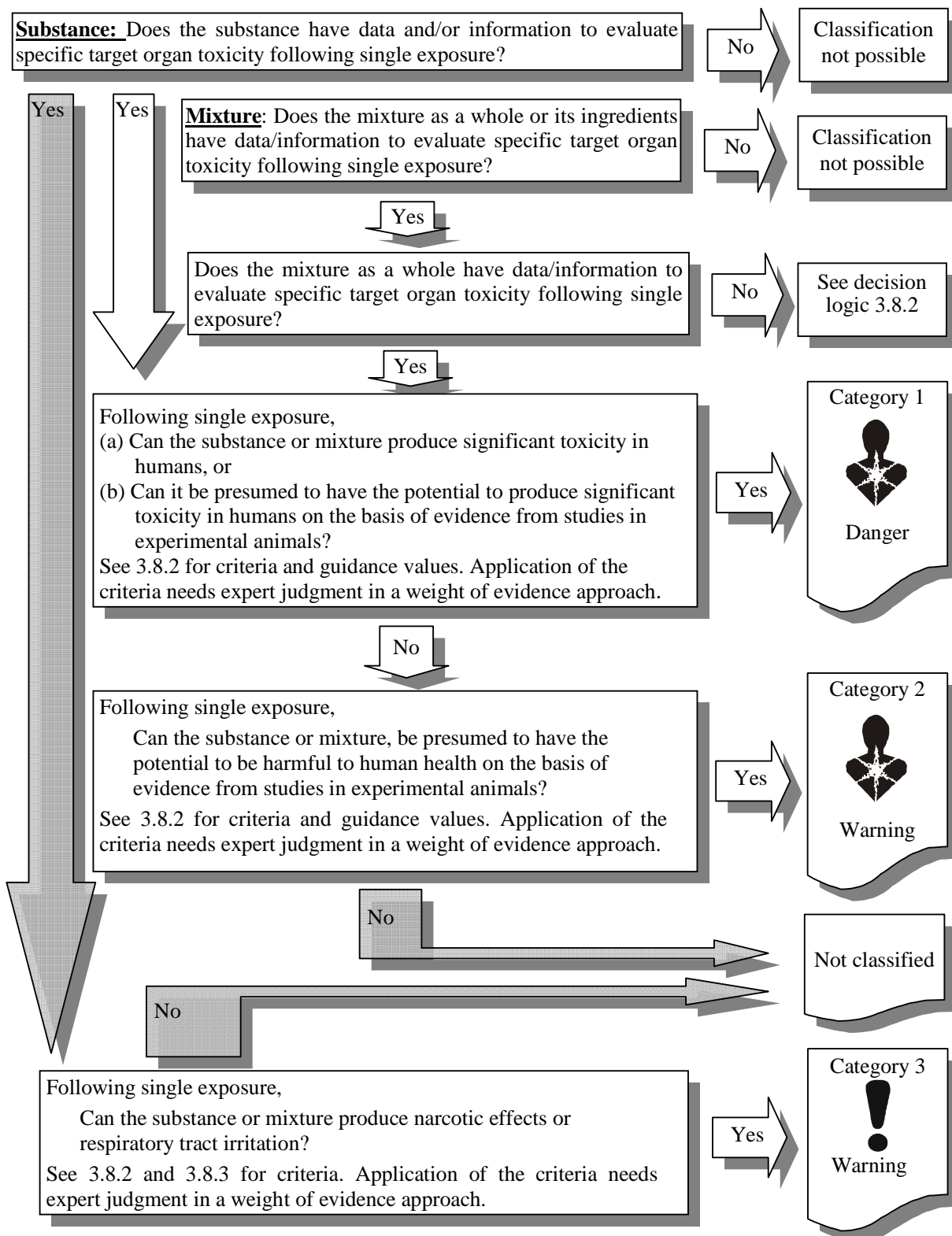
- (a) Is it Category 1? if yes, apply it. If not, check for Category 2.
- (b) Is it Category 2? if yes, apply it. If not, check for Category 3.
- (c) Is it Category 3? if yes, apply it. If not, no classification needs to be applied.

In fact, effects to be taken into account for STOT after single exposure Category 3 classification are entirely different from effects resulting in Category 1 or 2. This might lead to application of both, Category 1 or 2 STOT after single exposure AND Category 3 of the same hazard class. Consequently the effects for Category 1 or 2 and Category 3 need to be assessed separately and the decision logic need to be amended as proposed hereafter.

## **C. Proposal**

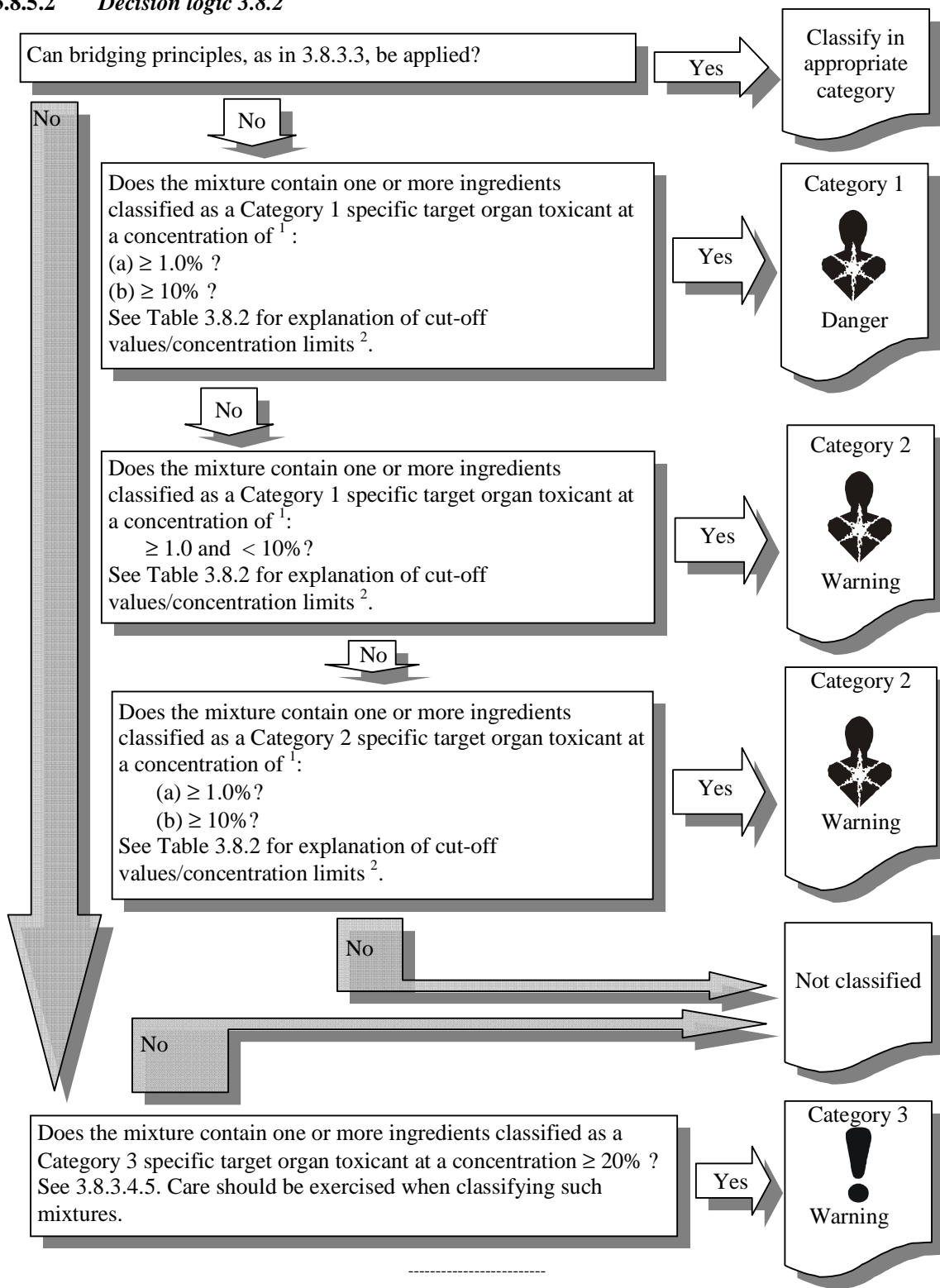
5. Amend decision logics 3.8.1 and 3.8.2 in sub-sections 3.8.5.1 and 3.8.5.2 of chapter 3.8 of the GHS to read as follows (changes visible as grey arrows. Current introductory text under 3.8.5 remains unchanged):

3.8.5.1 Decision logic 3.8.1



(Cont'd on next page)

3.8.5.2 Decision logic 3.8.2



<sup>1</sup> See 3.8.2 of this Chapter and “The use of cut-off values/concentration limits” in Chapter 1.3, para. 1.3.3.2.

<sup>2</sup> See 3.8.3.4 and Table 3.8.2 for explanation and guidance.