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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 GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND
LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)**

Health hazards

Note by the secretariat^{*/}

Background

1. The attention of the secretariat has been brought to a possible inconsistency between the guidance value ranges for gas inhalation in table 3.8.1 and the acute toxicity estimate (ATE) values given in table 3.1.1 of the GHS.
2. According to paragraph 3.8.2.1.9.3, the guidance value ranges proposed for single dose exposure producing a significant non-lethal toxic effect should be those applicable to acute toxicity testing, i.e.: the guidance values in table 3.8.1 should be equivalent to the ATE values given in table 3.1.1.

^{*/} 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).

3. At its twelfth session, the Sub-Committee adopted a proposal for the amendment of the Acute toxicity estimate (ATE) value for inhalation (gases) in table 3.1.1 (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/24, paragraph 10 and annex 1). As a consequence, the ATE value for Category 4 acute toxicity by inhalation of gases was changed from “5000” to “20000”, but the guidance values in table 3.8.1 were not amended accordingly, as shown in tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: ATE values given in table 3.1.1 for acute toxicity: Categories 3 and 4

Exposure route	Category 3	Category 4
Oral (mg/kg bodyweight)	300	2000
Dermal (mg/kg bodyweight)	1000	2000
Gases (ppmV)	2500	20000
Vapours (mg/l)	10	20
Dusts and Mists (mg/l)	1.0	5

Table 2: Guidance value ranges for single-dose exposures given in table 3.8.1 for specific target organ toxicity, Category 2

Route of exposure	Units	Category 2
Oral (rat)	mg/kg body weight	$2000 \geq C > 300$
Dermal (rat or rabbit)	mg/kg body weight	$2000 \geq C > 1000$
Inhalation (rat) gas	ppm	$5000 \geq C > 2500$
Inhalation (rat) vapour	mg/l	$20 \geq C > 10$
Inhalation (rat) dust/mist/fume	mg/l/4h	$5.0 \geq C > 1.0$

4. It was also noted that the ATE values for gases in table 3.1.1 are expressed in part per million per volume (ppmV), while the equivalent guidance value in table 3.8.1 is expressed in ppm.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

5. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the following corrections (to be included in a corrigendum to the second revised edition of the GHS) to the entry for inhalation of gases in table 3.8.1 (new text is underlined):

Route of exposure	Units	Category 2
Inhalation (rat) gas	ppm <u>V</u>	5000 <u>20000</u> $\geq C > 2500$
