

**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

Sixteenth session
Geneva, 10-12 (a.m) December 2008
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2009-2010

Note by the secretariat

[Draft list of items to be considered by the Sub-Committee for its programme of work for the biennium 2009-2010:

[(a) Chemically unstable gases and gas mixtures

Pursue the work on the development of a proposal for the classification and labelling of chemically unstable gases and gas mixtures together with a test method to determine their chemical instability (in cooperation with the Sub-Committee of experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods)

Lead country: Germany

Terms of reference: see UN/SCEGHS/16/INF.19, UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.19 and UN/SCEGHS/13/INF.5

(b) Desensitized explosives

Pursue the work on a proposal for the classification of desensitized explosives

Focal point: Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Terms of reference: see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/26 paras. 15-17

(c) Corrosion to metals

Consider pitting corrosion and suitability of Test C.1 for solids

Focal point: Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Lead country: France

Terms of reference: see UN/SCEGHS/16/INF.16

(d) Water activated toxicity

Pursue the work on test method N.5 for the assessment of water activated toxicity, in relation to:

- (i) the accurate and precise measurement of gas evolution rates for substances which in contact with water emit flammable or toxic gases;
- (ii) its possible application to substances which in contact with water emit corrosive gases;
- (iii) the improvement of the reproducibility of test results; and
- (iv) its suitability as a new method for the development of classification criteria, as appropriate.

Focal point: Sub-Committee of experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Lead countries: Germany

Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/19 and UN/SCEGHS/16/INF.18

(e) Pursue the work on the development of criteria for the classification and labelling of substances and mixtures hazardous for the terrestrial environment

Focal point: OECD

Lead country: Spain

Terms of reference: Background document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/21, paras. 15 to 18, see annex

(f) Improvement of Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS

Pursue work to further improve Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS: The correspondence group will work on the following work streams, with the first given priority:

Workstream 1: to develop proposals to rationalize and improve the usability of hazard and precautionary statements, including proposals to eliminate redundancies among these statements;

Workstream 2: to improve the presentation of Annexes 1 to 3 of the GHS, taking into account the intended audiences, uses and purposes of the GHS.

Lead country: United Kingdom

Terms of reference: Background document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/24, paras. 23-26

(g) Labelling of very small packagings

Development of guidance by the intersessional correspondence group on the application of the general principles for the labelling of small packagings. Issues to be considered include:

- (i) Which label elements must stay on the immediate container and which ones can be provided elsewhere;
- (ii) Precedence of hazard classes/categories;
- (iii) Distinction between workplace chemicals and consumer chemicals given the difference in target audience and level of training;
- (iv) Electronic format as an alternative or additional medium for hazard communication.

It should be noted that, after consideration, it is possible that some of the above items may not be included in the guidance. Also, it is recognised that the development of this guidance may necessitate a revision of the general principles.

Packaging terminology/definitions

The work on packaging terminology/definitions, as described in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/26, will start with a review of the current situation (based on document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/10) and the needs taking into account the consistency between the various systems and the cost benefits of any proposed changes.

Lead organisation: CEFIC

Terms of reference: Background document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/26, para.5, as amended by INF.41]

- (h) Application of GHS criteria to UVCBs¹ in specific petroleum substances

Lead organisation: IPIECA

Terms of reference: Background document: UN/SCEGHS/16/INF.9

- (i) Classification of mixtures

Lead country: United States of America

Terms of reference: Background document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/23

- (j) Editorial revision of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3

Lead country: Germany

Terms of reference:

- Editorially revise Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 to improve clarity and user-friendliness of the criteria;
- Examine whether particular criteria need further alignment/adjustment with respect to the internal consistency of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 and develop proposals for any minor necessary amendments;

- (k) Start considering if nanomaterials necessitate specific provisions in GHS;

- (l) Continue the activities to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS in Member Countries;

- (m) Continue the cooperation with the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for matters of common concerns;

- (n) 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;

- (o) Review reports on training and capacity-building activities;

- (p) 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.]

¹ *Substances of unknown or variable composition, complex reaction products or biological materials.*