



**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****Twenty-fourth session**

Geneva, 12 – 14 December 2012

Item 2 (e) of the provisional agenda:

**Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of
Classification and Labelling of chemicals (GHS):
Miscellaneous proposals****GHS pictogram codes for sectors other than transport****Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom¹****Purpose**

1. This document proposes the allocation of codes to identify GHS pictograms other than those prescribed by the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. Model Regulations. Together with the existing hazard and precautionary statement codes, the pictogram codes will enhance implementation of the GHS by helping industry and competent authorities to exchange and transmit labelling requirements unambiguously and without language issues.

2. The proposed text in the GHS makes clear that the codes should not replace the pictograms themselves on labels or in safety data sheets.

Background

3. During the 23rd session, the Sub-Committee considered informal document INF.23. The Sub-Committee supported in principle the proposal to assign reference numbers to GHS pictograms. However, several experts pointed out that should a codification system be

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2011-2012 approved by the Committee at its fifth session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/76, para. 116 and ST/SG/AC.10/38, para. 16).

developed, it should be made clear that the codes are to be used for reference purposes only and should never appear either on the label or in section 2 of the Safety Data Sheet in lieu of the information required therein. Several experts also mentioned that additional guidance similar to that currently available on the use of hazard and precautionary statements reference numbers should be developed.

Proposal

4. The proposal includes a new section 4 in Annex 3 of the GHS, and renumbers the current Section 4 (precautionary pictograms) as Section 5. However, if other changes to the Annexes are agreed in the 24th session the location of the proposed annex text may need to be reviewed.

5. The coding system follows the approach adopted for the H and P statement codes, with a lead number indicating the nature of the hazard, i.e. 2 for physical hazards, 3 for health hazards, 4 for environmental hazards, followed by a sequential number for the different pictograms for each hazard type. In addition, pictograms used for more than one type of hazard are distinguished by the lead number 9.

6. The Sub-Committee is invited to agree the proposed coding system and GHS text in paragraph 7 below.

7. Proposed amendments to the GHS:

Amendments to Chapter 1.4

1.4.10.4.3 Insert a new sub-section 1.4.10.4.3 to read as follows:

“1.4.10.4.3 Codification

Pictograms prescribed by the GHS for sectors other than transport, and a code uniquely identifying each one, are listed in Section 4 of Annex 3. The pictogram code is intended to be used for reference purposes only. It is not part of the pictogram, and should not be used to replace a pictogram on labels or in safety data sheets.”

Amendments to Annex 3

Insert the following new Section 4 in Annex 3 (as a consequence, current section 4 becomes new section 5):

“Annex 3

Section 4

CODIFICATION OF PICTOGRAMS

A3.4.1 Introduction

A3.4.1.1 *Pictogram* means a graphical composition that may include a symbol plus other graphic elements, such as a border, background pattern or colour that is intended to convey specific information.

A3.4.1.2 This section contains the recommended code assigned to each of the pictograms prescribed by the GHS for sectors other than transport.

A3.4.1.3 The pictogram code is intended to be used for references purposes. It is not part of the pictogram and should not be used to replace a pictogram on labels or in safety data sheets.

A3.4.2 Codification of pictograms

A3.4.2.1 GHS pictograms for sectors other than transport are assigned a unique alphanumerical code as follows:

- (a) the letters “GHS”;
- (b) a number designating the type of hazard which the pictogram denotes, as follows:
 - “2” for physical hazards
 - “3” for health hazards
 - “4” for environmental hazards
 - “9” where the pictogram denotes more than one type of hazard
- (c) a number corresponding to the sequential numbering of the pictograms within each of the indents in (b) above.

A3.4.2.2 The codes and corresponding pictograms are shown in Tables A3.4.1 (Physical hazards), A3.4.2 (Health hazards), A3.4.3 (Environmental hazards), A3.4.4 (pictograms denoting more than one type of hazard) below:

Table A3.4.1: Pictograms for physical hazards





Code	Physical hazard pictogram	Symbol
GHS21		Exploding Bomb
GHS22		Flame
GHS23		Flame over circle
GHS24		Gas cylinder

Table A3.4.2: Pictograms for health hazards



Code	Health hazard pictogram	Symbol
GHS31		Skull and crossbones
GHS32		Health Hazard

Table A3.4.3: Pictograms for environmental hazards




Code	Environmental hazard pictogram	Symbol
GHS41		Environment

Table A3.4.4: Pictograms for more than one type of hazard

Code	Pictogram denoting more than one type of hazard	Symbol
GHS91		Corrosion
GHS92		Exclamation Mark

»

Consequential amendment:

Amend the title of Annex 3 and its related entry in the table of contents to read:

“CODIFICATION OF HAZARD STATEMENTS, CODIFICATION AND USE OF PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS, CODIFICATION OF HAZARD PICTOGRAMS AND EXAMPLES OF PRECAUTIONARY PICTOGRAMS”