

## 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

26 June 2012

### Twenty-third session

Geneva, 4 (p.m) – 6 July 2012

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

Updating of the fifth revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System  
of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS): Physical hazards

## Status report on Dust Explosion Hazards correspondence group activities

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America on behalf  
of the informal correspondence group on Dust Explosion Hazards

### I. Introduction

1. At the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UNSCEGHS), a correspondence group was formed, comprised of representatives that are subject matter experts, to collect information on dust explosion hazards from the members. The information to be requested includes:

- (a) Existing definitions or criteria for dust explosion hazards including any analytical methods used and any methods for determining related relevant safety data used;
- (b) Requirements (if any) for hazard communication on labels and SDSs;
- (c) Explosion protection concept and derived safety measures; and
- (d) Identification of issues related to addressing dust explosion hazards in the GHS, if any.

### II. Background

2. At the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the UNSCEGHS, the correspondence group submitted an informal paper providing a status report of their activities to date. The correspondence group explained that a survey was sent to GHS member countries and non-governmental organizations to gather data regarding the methods used to communicate dust explosion hazards.

3. The correspondence group also proposed terms of reference for the current biennium in the informal paper. The terms of reference for the 2011-2012 biennium are:

- (a) Continue to compile and analyse the dust explosion hazard survey responses received from the heads of delegation from the member countries and the NGO representatives;

- (b) Identify common themes in the responses and missing information;
  - (c) Determine the follow-up required to capture any missing information;
  - (d) Determine what and how information (if any) should be conveyed in the GHS;
4. The correspondence group met during the 20<sup>th</sup> Session to discuss the survey results.
5. At the 21<sup>st</sup> session, the Correspondence group met, presenting a thought starter to the UNSCEGHS to consider various options on how to address dust explosion hazards in the GHS. Feedback received at the session led to the development of three workstreams. During the 22<sup>nd</sup> session, the workstreams were reviewed and consensus was reached by the UNSCEGHS. The workstreams are presented below.
- (a) Workstream 1: review the existing national consensus and reference regulations developed by competent authorities, identify the common pieces of information used to communicate the hazards, and determine how and if this information is to be addressed;
  - (b) Workstream 2: ensure that any information proposed to be included in section 9 of the SDS is communicated to the working group on Section 9 of Annex 4.;
  - (c) Workstream 3: start the discussion and develop an outline or work plan for a separate chapter in the GHS containing more detailed information on the conditions under which a dust explosion hazard could be encountered.

### **III. Update of work completed to date**

6. The correspondence group held conference calls in March and May 2012 to further progress the work in Workstreams 1 and 2.
7. Regarding Workstream 1, the correspondence group reviewed the feedback received on how dust explosion hazards are communicated on safety data sheets and agreed that dust explosion hazard information should be communicated in Sections 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 16 of the safety data sheet. This information conforms with guidance already included in the GHS and ensures the hazard and appropriate safety measures are communicated on the safety data sheet. The correspondence group is evaluating appropriate amendments and guidance to be included in Annex 4 of the next revised edition of the GHS, specifically for Sections 2, 5, 7, and 9.
8. For Workstream 2, the correspondence group is also working with the Annex 4, Section 9 correspondence group to identify appropriate information and guidance for this section of the safety data sheet.
9. At the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the UNSCEGHS, the correspondence group will meet to continue discussions on Workstream 1 and 2.

### **IV. Correspondence Group meeting at the 23rd session of the UNSCEGHS**

10. Experts are invited to attend the correspondence group meeting planned for Tuesday, July 3, 2012 at 17:45 – 19:00 in Room I.
-