

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**

4 July 2012

Twenty-third session

Geneva, 4 (p.m) – 6 July 2012

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the GHS: Implementation issues

Process for evaluating the possible development of global list of classified chemicals

**Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America on behalf
of the practical implementation issues informal correspondence group**

Introduction

1. During the 22nd session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals this working group developed a list of guiding principles. These guiding principles are intended to provide a foundation that can be used in developing a list of classified chemicals and are before the Sub-Committee for consideration and approval.
2. Also during the 22nd session the working group discussed the next steps in exploring the development of a global of list of classified chemicals. The next steps included developing a pilot program which would examine the process, resources needed and issues that may arise in developing a global list.
3. The next step in this process is to examine options and develop an outline for how work on the pilot program should proceed.

Background

4. During the 20th session of the Sub-Committee, Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals Sub-committee meeting, this working group was charged with considering the following three items (Terms of Reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2010/20 (paragraph 12)):
 - Establishing a set of principles to guide the development of a global list of GHS classified chemicals
 - What chemicals should be the focus of work for classification according to the GHS, considering those chemicals possessing hazards of serious health, physical and/or environmental concern; those most commonly used and transported worldwide; and which end-points should be covered; and
 - The interim steps such as the development of a proposal on functionalities that would increase the efficacy of the OECD eChemPortal regarding the current GHS classification of chemicals in existing lists.

5. In order to satisfy the first item. This working group developed the proposed principles presented to the Sub-Committee in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2012/10, *Proposal to establish guiding principles for developing a global list of classified chemicals*

Process for determining further action

6. This paper is a thought starter for devising a process for examining how a global list might be developed, beginning with the development of a proposal for the pilot project.

7. A concurrent work stream will focus on identifying a path forward for reviewing existing lists and data in order to determine what data and information might be used for the pilot project and as potential references for developing a global list of classified chemicals.

8. Specifically, a pilot program will be used to determine what issues the Sub-Committee may encounter in pursuing the development of a global list of classified chemicals. Below is a potential outline of work for the next biennium:

- (a) Review and choose potential chemicals for the pilot program.
- (b) Gather available information on the selected chemicals
- (c) Review information according to GHS classification criteria and seek consensus on harmonized classifications
- (d) Develop an initial process for stakeholder participation
- (e) Identify and assess issues/resource requirements
- (f) Consider the relationship between the GHS global list and the TDG classification list

9. Developing a pilot program will lay the groundwork for establishing a future programme of work. As part of the next programme of work, this group can work through the process of analysing the pilot group of chemicals in order to develop a systematic approach for review by the Sub-Committee in assessing potential development of a global list.

Discussion of step one: reviewing and choosing chemicals

10. The first step in this process is to review and choose the chemicals for the pilot program. The test group should be comprised of a diverse group of chemicals.

11. Additionally, a mechanism for prioritization should be considered in order to determine which chemicals to include in the pilot group.

12. Whether outside stakeholders should be invited to participate in the process of developing a pilot program, either through formal or informal channels.

13. Selection of chemicals for the pilot program should be based on the following criteria:

- (a) Chemicals that are data rich and data poor
- (b) Consideration of chemicals that have impurities
- (c) Chemicals with “harmonized” and “un-harmonized” GHS classifications in existing systems
- (d) Chemicals that raise serious health, physical, and/or environmental concerns.
- (e) Chemicals most commonly used and transported worldwide.