

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**

5 July 2012

Twenty-third session

Geneva, 4 (p.m) – 6 July 2012

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

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

Dust explosion hazards guidance proposals

**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 23rd session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UNSCGHS), the correspondence group met outside the plenary to continue the work on Workstreams 1 and 2 (see INF.21). The purpose of Workstream 1 is to 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. Workstream 2's purpose is to 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.

II. Update of the work completed at the correspondence group meeting

2. The purpose of the correspondence group meeting held on July 3, 2012, was to reach agreement the guidance to be provided in Annex 4 of the GHS. The group agreed that any agreements reached would be provided in an informal paper to the Sub-committee, with a working paper containing the final proposals submitted at the 24th session of the UNSCEGHS.

3. After much discussion, the working group agreed on guidance for Sections 2, 5, and 7 of the safety data sheet (SDS). The group did not complete their discussion on Section 9, and expects to continue these discussions on Work streams 1 and 2 either in a conference call before or during the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

III. Proposals

4. The working group proposes the following amendments, as indicated, to text in Annex 4 and welcomes comments by the Sub-committee:

- (a) For Section 2 of the SDS (Hazard Identification), sub-section A4.3.2.3:
“**A4.3.2.3 Other hazards which do not result in classification**
Provide information on other hazards which do not result in classification but may contribute to the overall hazards of the material, for example, formation of air contaminants during hardening or processing, dust explosion hazards, suffocation, freezing or environmental effects such as hazards to soil- dwelling organisms. The statement “May form explosible dust/air mixture if dispersed” is appropriate in the case of a dust explosion hazard.”
- (b) For Section 5 of the SDS (Fire-fighting measures), sub-section A4.3.5.1:
“**A4.3.5.1 Suitable extinguishing media**
Provide information on the appropriate extinguishing media. In addition, indicate whether any extinguishing media are inappropriate for a particular situation involving the substance or mixture (e.g., high pressure media which could cause the formation of a potentially explosible dust/air mixture).”
- (c) For Section 7 of the SDS (Handling and Storage), paragraph A4.3.7.1.1:
“A4.3.7.1.1 Provide advice that:
(a) allows safe handling of the substance or mixture;
(b) prevents handling of incompatible substances or mixtures;
(c) draws attention to operations and conditions which create new risks by altering the properties of the substance or mixture, and to appropriate countermeasures; and
(e d) minimizes the release of the substance or mixture to the environment.”

IV. Next steps

5. The correspondence group will submit a working paper incorporating any comments received at the UNSCEGHS 24th session.
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