Revised guiding principles for developing a global list of classified chemicals

Transmitted by the United States of America on behalf of the informal correspondence group on practical classification issues

The guiding principles presented below have been updated to reflect the comments from the working group meeting held during the twenty-third session of the Sub-Committee.

Guiding principles

Proposed guiding principles:

(a) The development of a global list is compatible with the GHS principle of self-classification since the list will be non-binding (see (f) below). The process for developing and maintaining a global list must be clear, transparent and follow the principles of the GHS. Opportunities should be provided for stakeholders, including stakeholders without UN status, to provide input electronically, as well as a mechanisms for expert review, conflict resolution and updating the list when new data becomes available.

(b) All GHS hazard categories and classes must be included in the global list of classified chemicals. ¹

(c) Only substances, as defined by the GHS, will be included on the global list of classified chemicals;

(d) All substances must be accurately identifiable and described for each entry (e.g. including Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Numbers (CAS numbers) and relevant impurities).

(e) The data sets forming the basis for the chemical classification must be referenced with the classification. The source of the information must also be

¹ Development of the global list needs to involve priority setting and proceeding in a stepwise fashion. While the ultimate goal is to include all GHS classes/categories an interim step may include a phased approach. The pilot program being proposed for the next biennium will not require that substances be selected in order to have all hazard classes/categories covered.
electronic, readily available, and publicly accessible. The data used for the classification should be based on sound scientific principles.

(f) The global list of chemical classifications will be non-binding. As with the GHS itself, countries will have the option to make the list binding if they adopt it through their legislative and/or regulatory process.