

**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**

11 December 2012

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Geneva, 12 – 14 December 2012

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the GHS:

**Implementation issues**

**Editorial amendments to the proposal in document -2012/26:  
Guiding principles for developing a global list of classified  
chemicals**

**Transmitted by the expert from the Netherlands**

**I. Purpose**

1. The expert from the United States of America submitted working document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2012/26 on behalf of the informal correspondence group on practical classification issues.
2. The purpose of this informal document is to inform the GHS Subcommittee of Expert of our proposal for an editorial revision in (a) and (f) of the guiding principles for developing a global list of classified chemicals as put forward in the above mentioned working document. We agree with the principles (b), (c), (d) and (e) as proposed.
3. The next paragraph presents the amended guiding principles (a) and (f). Paragraph 5 visualises the editorial changes as proposed.

**II. Proposal for guiding principles (a) and (f)**

4. Amend guiding principles (a) and (f) in paragraph 9 of document -2012/26, as indicated hereafter (deleted text is crossed-out. Inserted text is underlined). Guiding principles (b) to (e) remain unchanged:

“(a) ~~The development of a global list is compatible with the GHS principle of self-classification since the list will be non-binding (see sub-paragraph (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, to provide input as well as mechanisms for expert review, conflict resolution and updating the list when new significant data or information become available.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Given the vast amount of substances on the global market the global list will initially cover only a subset of prioritised substances.

- (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. Furthermore the development of a global list is compatible with the GHS principle of self-classification.

5. If the proposed editorial changes are adopted, the amended guiding principles would read as follows:

- “(a) 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, to provide input as well as mechanisms for expert review, conflict resolution and updating the list when new significant data or information become available.<sup>2</sup>
  - (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. Furthermore the development of a global list is compatible with the GHS principle of self-classification.”
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