

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

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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the GHS – Implementation issues

Report of the informal correspondence group for developing a global list of classified chemicals

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

1. The informal correspondence group on for developing a global list of classified chemicals held a meeting on 13 December 2012 to discuss additional comments received on working document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2012/26 and informal paper INF.30. The Correspondence Group recommends adoption of the working paper with the amendments provided below.

Amendments to ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2012/26

2. Amend guiding principles (a), (e) and (f) in paragraph 9 of the document as follows:
 - (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.¹
 - (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 electronically available, and publicly accessible. The data should be derived using test methods that are scientifically sound and validated according to international procedures ~~internationally recognized test methods and 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. Furthermore the development of a global list is compatible with the GHS principle of self-classification.

¹ Given the vast amount of substances on the global market the global list will initially cover only a subset of prioritised substances.

Annex

Updated proposed guiding principles:

- (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.¹
- (b) All GHS hazard categories and classes must be included in the global list of classified chemicals.²
- (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), the UN numbers assigned under transport of dangerous goods regulations where assigned/applicable, 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 electronically available, and publicly accessible. The data should be derived using test methods that are scientifically sound and validated according to international procedures.
- (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.

¹ Given the vast amount of substances on the global market the global list will initially cover only a subset of prioritised substances.

² 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 in 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.