

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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Items 3a of the provisional agenda

Hazard communication issues

Report from the correspondence group on the revision of Section 9 of the SDS

**Transmitted by the expert from Germany on behalf of the
correspondence group**

Introduction

1. This document reports about the status of work of the informal correspondence group on the revision of Section 9 of the SDS.
2. Since its last report during the last meeting of the Sub-Committee, the correspondence group had two phone conferences. In addition the group had an intensive meeting on July 1st.
3. In the following, the correspondence group wishes to outline the discussions and decisions taken in in order to keep the Sub-Committee up-dated.

Status of work

4. As outlined in previous reports the group had decided to introduce guidance for each of the properties given in Annex 4 Section 9. This guidance is supposed to clarify what kind of data is expected for each of the bullet points. The purpose is improving the quality and consistency of Section 9 in the SDS.
5. The group preliminarily agreed to divide the properties/ data required in Section 9 of the SDS into three tables/blocks with regard to their presentation in Annex 4 of the GHS (please see also informal document 36 to the last session).
 - Block 1 is foreseen for basic physical chemical properties which are mandatory in the sense that a line for each of these properties is required in every SDS even if they are not applicable or data is not available.
 - Block 2 is for data relevant where a substance/mixture is classified for a physical hazard. Information in accordance with this block is only required for those hazard classes into which the respective substance/mixture is classified.
 - Block 3 is for further safety characteristics not resulting in classification.
6. The reason for this division into three blocks is that the group found it useful to structure the properties for the purposes of giving guidance to the preparer of the SDS,

which is the purpose of Annex 4 to the GHS. In the meeting on July 1st the group agreed also that this division into three blocks is not necessarily useful for the reader/user of the SDS and therefore does not intend to require such a division for the layout of the SDS itself.

Further work

7. The meeting on July 1st showed, however, that there is no agreement yet on exactly what properties/data should be given in block 1, which in block 2 and which in block 3. It therefore will revise the current drafts and further discuss them by e-mail and in phone conferences before the next meeting and hopefully in a meeting during the next session.

8. For this purpose several experts of the group have volunteered to refine the existing text and to provide examples of what Section 9 would look like when prepared in accordance with the status of work of the group. These examples are simply thought to be used for "validation" of the work of the group and currently it is not foreseen to include examples into the GHS itself.

9. The group will report about its further progress during the next meeting again.
