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**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****Twenty-seventh session**

Geneva, 2 – 4 July 2014

Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda

**Classification criteria and related hazard communication: nanomaterials****Review the applicability of GHS to nanomaterials****Transmitted by the expert from France on behalf of the correspondence  
group<sup>1</sup>**

1. This document reports about the status of work of the informal correspondence group (ICG) on the review the applicability of GHS to nanomaterials. This report is presented as a recall of the terms of reference of the ICG, as agreed during the twenty-sixth session, and a summary of the main consensus on the workstreams.

**Status of work****Terms of reference**

2. As agreed during the twenty-sixth session and reported in annex II of document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/52, the terms of reference of the ICG are:

- (a) To establish whether there is a need to amend the GHS to make clear that nano-forms of a substance are within scope of the GHS;
- (b) To review the classification and labelling criteria in the GHS to establish whether they are appropriate for nano, as well as bulk-forms of a substance;

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2013–2014 approved by the Committee at its sixth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/40, para. 14, and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48, Annex IV, item 2(a)).

- (c) To review the content of safety data sheets set out in the GHS in terms of their applicability to nano-forms of a substance;
- (d) To report back to the Sub-Committee on the outcomes of (a) to (c) and to propose further work, as appropriate.

### **Proposed workstreams and articulation with other relevant activities**

- 3. To be compliant with the items (a) to (c) of the terms of reference, and do not duplicate the work, the ICG :
  - (a) shall monitor the work of the relevant ICGs (ex. : ICGs on dust explosion hazards, on Annex 4 (Section 9), Annex 9 (section A9.7), and Annex 10, etc.) and provide input to those groups on issues of common concern.
  - (b) shall be aware of the activities in other forums worldwide on hazard assessment of nano-forms of the substances and report back to the Sub-Committee on their relevant outcomes for the purpose of the ICG, in compliance with item (d) of the terms of reference.
- 4. To prepare the first opinion of the ICG, the discussion will address essentially item (a) of the terms of reference, and it will focus on the review of some words or sentences in the GHS relevant for the (nano) particles (ex.: “dust”, “powder”, “particle sizes”, etc.).
- 5. More technical assessments are foreseen to answer items (b) and (c) of the terms of reference, and the discussions are continuing in the ICG to formalize the corresponding workstreams and to consider whether there is a need to make other changes to the GHS to ensure that the hazards presented by substances in the nano-form are adequately covered.

### **Further work**

- 6. An informal document presenting more detailed workstreams and some unsolved issues should be available for discussion by the ICG during the 27th session of the Sub-Committee.
  - 7. Depending on the consensus reached during the next discussions within the ICG, and where relevant, a formal document is expected to be submitted for the 28th session of the Sub-Committee in December 2014 to present the outcomes, and perhaps, a first opinion of the ICG on the applicability of GHS to nanomaterials.
  - 8. The delegations not already in the ICG are invited to take note of and to participate to this work.
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