

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

4 December 2013

Twenty-sixth session

Geneva, 4 – 6 December 2013

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda

Classification criteria and hazard communication:

Corrosivity criteria

Outcome of the meeting of the Joint TDG-GHS working group on corrosivity criteria

Transmitted by the expert of the United Kingdom on behalf of the working group

1. The joint TDG-GHS working group on corrosivity met on 3 December 2013.
2. In taking forward the preferred options identified at the previous meeting on 1 July 2013, participants in the joint group indicated the need to retain the GHS sub-categories 1A, 1B and 1C, as these sub-categories are central to GHS corrosivity classification, and are used to establish workplace standards for storage and safe handling.
3. The Joint Group confirmed the correlation between the GHS sub-categories 1A, 1B and 1C with Packing Groups I, II and III respectively where these are based on human, animal or *in vitro* data. The challenge was in assigning packing groups in the transport sector when the GHS alternative methods, particularly the additivity and non-additivity approaches, were applied. A further challenge lay in identifying additional criteria for when Packing Group I should be assigned for substances and mixtures classified as GHS sub-category 1A and not included in the Dangerous Goods List.
4. It was noted that work by OECD on an integrated testing strategy for corrosivity was progressing and could be a useful input.
5. The expert from the Netherlands presented the proposal reproduced in paragraph 8 of this document as a variation of Option 6 in the UK paper and of the proposal of CEFIC. The Joint Working Group welcomed the proposal as a very good starting point.
6. If the GHS Sub-Committee agrees that this proposal should be progressed, the expert from the Netherlands will lead the development of the proposal, working as appropriate with other experts, with a view to producing a working document for both Sub-Committees. The GHS Sub-Committee is also requested to invite the TDG Sub-Committee to develop the additional criteria and considerations necessary to assign PG I, and to feed these back to the Joint Group.
7. The officers and secretariats of both Sub-Committees are asked to arrange a further meeting of the Joint Working Group in July 2014.

Proposal

8. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the following proposal:

GHS hazard class	Transport		Additional criteria and considerations	Transport conditions
1A	8 A	Other criteria*	PGI based on “other criteria” PG II	Special packing provisions, limited and excepted quantities and downstream transport provisions
1B	8 B		PG II	
1C	8 C		PG III	
1**	8		PG II	

* *Other criteria: In case the GHS hazard category is Cat. 1A, the results of the individual in vivo/in vitro studies, human evidence and/or experience,, may warrant the use of Packing Group I for transport. The criteria are not necessarily hazard based.*

** *Where due to limited hazard information on the transported substance/mixture, the GHS criteria do not allow the assignment of the subcategory.*