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
Items 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

Report on discussion on corrosivity criteria of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on its 45th session

Submitted by the expert from the Netherlands

Introduction

1. The Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee) held its forty-fifth session from 23 June to 2 July 2014.

2. Under item 11 (g) of its agenda (Issues relating to the GHS), the TDG Sub-Committee considered the work of the intersessional joint TDG-GHS working group on corrosivity criteria.


   Informal documents: UN/SCETDG/45/INF.3 + Add.1 - UN/SCEGHS/27/INF.3 + Add.1 (The Netherlands on behalf of the Working Group)
   UN/SCETDG/45/INF.32 - UN/SCEGHS/27/INF.9; (The Netherlands on behalf of WG)
   UN/SCETDG/45/INF.64 - UN/SCEGHS/27/INF.18 (FEA)
   UN/SCETDG/45/INF.65 - UN/SCEGHS/27/INF.19 (Spain)

3. The outcome of the discussions is summarized hereafter.

Outcome of the discussion on corrosivity criteria

4. The experts of the TDG Sub-Committee expressed their appreciation of the work carried out by the intersessional Working Group as presented in the documents.


6. The formula as presented in informal documents INF.32-INF.9 to assign the packing group for mixtures classified GHS class 1A based on the additivity method received general support. Further work needs to be done to elaborate this formula, especially the
value of the general concentration limit in the denominator of the formula. The expertise of
the experts of the TDG Sub-Committee was considered indispensable for this further work.
Furthermore, the key decision on the concentration limit should be considered within the
remit of the TDG Sub-Committee.

7. Regarding the further work on the concentration limit Spain provided valuable input
(INF.65/INF.19). Industry was invited to present examples with specific substances and
mixtures to facilitate the work on the general concentration limit as experience of industry
in assigning packing groups will be valuable input when determining which concentrations
lead to different packaging groups.

8. The proposal to use a default classification in cases where sub-classification is not
possible received general support. Further work on this issue needs to be carried out and
should be considered within the remit of the TDG Sub-Committee.

9. Amongst the other issues that need to be considered by the experts of the TDG Sub-
Committee is the need for a version date in the reference to OECD Test Guidelines in the
Model Regulations.

10. It is the desire of the TDG Sub-Committee to conclude the work on corrosivity
criteria during this biennium. To achieve this, a formal working paper needs to be
submitted to both sub-committees before the August deadline.

11. All delegations of the TDG Sub-Committee are invited to review the proposal for
Chapter 2.8 as presented in INF.32 - INF.9 and present their views and (editorial) remarks
in writing.

12. The TDG Sub-Committee recognized the need for practical arrangements on the
progress of the work on corrosivity criteria during the upcoming months.