

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

21 November 2014

Twenty-eight session

Geneva, 10 – 12 (morning) December 2014

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Development of guidance on the application of GHS criteria

Update on the alignment of Annex 9 (section 9.7) and Annex 10 on the Transformation/Dissolution protocol to the generic environmental hazard guidance in Chapter 4.1

**Transmitted by the International Council on Mining and Metals
(ICMM) on behalf of the informal working group**

Background

1. In 2012, at its 24th session, the Sub-Committee reconfirmed the mandate of a correspondence group to amend the strategy for metals and metal compounds to include the long-term aquatic assessment (ref: INF.25, GHS 24th session). The group commenced its work in 2013 and expected to finalize it during the biennium 2013-2014.

Work plan

2. The correspondence group is reviewing Annex 9 section A9.7 (Classification of metals and metal compounds) as well as Annex 10 (Transformation-Dissolution of metals and metal compounds in aqueous media) for inclusion under the next revised edition of the GHS. This would ensure the classification strategy, guidance and tools on metals and metal compounds are in line with the long-term aquatic classification scheme introduced by the third revised edition.

3. The main changes that are being considered to amend the present acute hazard categories towards the long-term aquatic classification endpoint for metals and metal compounds include:

- (a) For Annex 9, section A9.7:
 - (i) extension of the classification strategy and guidance for metals, and poorly soluble metal compounds towards the long-term aquatic classification endpoint;
 - (ii) extension of the effects data interpretation for data rich substances, to the long-term aquatic classification endpoint;
 - (iii) review of the application of M-factors for the acute and long-term aquatic classification endpoint;

- (iv) potential additional guidance on the demonstration of “rapid removal” from the water column;
- (b) For Annex 10:
 - extension of the Transformation/Dissolution protocol (TDp) to lower doses (0.1 and 0.01 at 28 days) - which could include testing and modelling guidance

Status of the work

4. The correspondence group met during the 26th session of the Sub-Committee and by subsequent teleconferences to review changes to the text of both annexes – based on proposals drafted by ICMM. Comments were submitted to ICMM in writing and a new version was circulated to the group in November 2014 for review prior to the commencement of the 28th session. A meeting of the correspondence group is proposed for 10th December in Geneva.
 5. An update will be presented on the conclusions of the correspondence group discussion and the estimated timing for completion of the update.
 6. The Sub-Committee is invited to keep this item in its programme of work for 2015-2016. The group expects to have a final set of recommendations and proposed amendments to the GHS ready to be submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration at its next session.
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