

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

27 June 2016

Thirtieth session

Geneva, 5–8 July 2016

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

Classification criteria and hazard communication:

Dust explosion hazards

Dust explosion hazards: Status report and July 2016 meeting agenda

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America on behalf
of the informal correspondence group on Dust Explosion Hazards

I. Introduction

1. This informal paper provides an update of the work performed by the correspondence group since the 30th session of the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UNSCGHS).

II. Background

2. The UNSCEGHS agreed to keep the work being done on dust explosion hazards on its programme of work for the 2015-2016 biennium (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/56).

3. The correspondence group met in mid-July, in October, and in December 2015 (see UN/SCEGHS/30/INF.22 and UN/SCEGHS/30/INF.32).

III. Status report

4. Based on the results of the December 2015 meeting, several experts from Germany, the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), and the United States of America developed a thought starter for an annex addressing dust explosion hazards. Using the thought starter as the basis for discussion, the correspondence group met in late April 2016. At the meeting, the group began the process of evaluating and modifying the thought starter to achieve a harmonized approach. The draft annex, in its current state, addresses

- (a) Definitions;
- (b) Identification of combustible dusts (flow chart);
- (c) Factors contributing to dust explosions (oxidizing atmosphere, influence of temperature and pressure, confinement, ignition sources);
- (d) Hazard identification, risk assessment and mitigation (protection concepts); and
- (e) Supplemental information for hazard communication.

5. Once the correspondence group has progressed the work to a state at which they are prepared to share the work with the UNSCEGHS, the draft annex will be provided in an informal paper.

IV. July 6, 2016 Meeting agenda

6. At the July 6th meeting, the correspondence group will continue discussions on the developing a draft annex on dust explosion hazards. As always, Sub-committee members are invited to participate in the meeting, which will be held in Room IX from 15:00 – 19:00.
