

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

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Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

Classification criteria and related hazard communication:

work of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(TDG Sub-Committee) on matters of interest to the GHS Sub-Committee

Proposed terms of reference for the review of Chapter 2.1 of the GHS

Transmitted by the expert from Sweden

1. At the 28th session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS it was decided that Chapter 2.1 of the GHS, which is the chapter on Explosives, should be reviewed, see the report from that session document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/56, section VIII.
2. The reasons for undertaking this review have been expressed in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2014/79–ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2014/15 by the expert from Australia, which in paragraphs 10-13 also contains the terms of reference for the work (see the report from the 28:th session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS).
3. The review is on-going but has not been completed, and it is proposed that the work is pursued during the next biennium 2017-18. Two options for Terms of Reference are proposed:

Option A – Retain the current terms of reference

Retain the current Terms of Reference as in paragraphs 10-13 in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2014/79–ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2014/15.

Option B – Amend the terms of reference to

“Review Chapter 2.1 with the aim of making it more suitable for use by sectors other than transport that may apply the GHS, in particular in relation to the dependence of the current classification and labelling of explosives on the transport packaging or configuration.

The work may include, as appropriate:

- Proposing amendments to the current classification system in order to differentiate various types of explosive behaviour and various degrees of explosion hazards.
- Proposing amendments the current labelling elements in order to provide appropriate hazard communication for explosives.
- Proposing other amendments to the chapter to make it consistent, including to clarify criteria and definitions.
- Proposing consequential amendments to other parts of the GHS, including for the preparation of safety data sheets.

The work may also include proposing guidance on application of the chapter and related aspects of explosion hazards, including when explosives are handled under process and manufacturing conditions, as appropriate.

Any amendments proposed to Chapter 2.1 are not to affect the classification of explosives for transport and should recognise the benefits of harmonization with transport provisions as well as give consideration to potential downstream consequences.”
