

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

10 July 2019

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Item 2 (g) of the provisional agenda

**Classification criteria and related hazard communication:
simultaneous classification in physical hazard classes
and precedence of hazards**

Outcome of discussions in the meeting of the Informal Working group on combinations of physical hazards on 9 July 2019

Transmitted by the expert from Germany on behalf of the Informal Working Group

1. The Informal Working Group (IWG) on combinations of physical hazards met for the first time during lunch time on 9 July 2019.
2. The chair welcomed the participants and recalled that anyone who wanted to be on the distribution list of this Informal Working Group should just indicate so.
3. First the group recalled the terms of reference of the Informal Working Group (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2018/21, as amended in the report of the Sub-Committee on its thirty-sixth session, see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/72, paragraph 74) and started discussions along the lines of the individual tasks assigned to the group.
4. Several of the experts volunteered to take up some of the work of Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 and agreed to provide their findings on possible/impossible combinations with regard to the physical state and with regard to explicit information in the GHS for some of the physical hazard classes.
5. Further experts agreed to prepare a thought starter for principles according to Task 1.3, i.e. principles that can be used to analyze the remaining combinations (i.e. those that would be still open after Task 1.1 and 1.2), taking into account e.g. safety of testing personnel, limitations with regard to conduct and interpretation of test results, redundancy of hazard communication etc.
6. Then the group turned to Task 2 in which it is supposed to check the precedence of hazards of the Model Regulations as to whether it can be used for the purposes of the GHS and whether it is in line with the results according to Task 1. The group greatly appreciated that also experts of the TDG Sub-Committee were present in order to assist with and answer questions related to Task 2.
7. Based on the discussions the group gained a much better understanding of the TDG precedence of hazards. That understanding is supposed to be supported with the help of a short summary of the TDG precedence of hazards for the GHS experts using their terminology. A further volunteer agreed to prepare that. During the discussions, it was

mentioned by some experts that there was no intention to introduce a precedence of hazards as contained in the Model Regulations into the GHS.

8. The group will continue its work by considering the various input as mentioned above in its further work.
