

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

6 November 2019

Thirty-eighth session

Geneva, 11-13 December 2019

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Other business

Definitions and use of acronyms and abbreviations in the GHS

Note by the secretariat

1. Chapter 1.2 list the definitions, acronyms and abbreviations used in the GHS. New definitions, acronyms or abbreviations should be systematically added to the list in Chapter 1.2.
2. To ensure a consistent approach when dealing with acronyms, abbreviations and definitions, the secretariat invites the Sub-Committee to consider the proposals below. They aim at:
 - (a) addressing redundant listing of definitions of acronyms and abbreviations (e.g.: those currently in the footnotes in Annex 4 that are already defined in Chapter 1.2, e.g.: ADR, RID; UN Model Regulations, Montreal Protocol);
 - (b) moving to Chapter 1.2 those defined elsewhere in the GHS (e.g. ADN, IMDG Code, IBC Code, Stockholm Convention, etc);
 - (c) including some definitions currently missing in Chapter 1.2 (e.g.: “aerosols” (see 2.3.1.1), “chemicals under pressure” (see 2.3.2.1) and gases under pressure” (see 2.5.1);
 - (d) deleting unnecessary or redundant acronyms or abbreviations.

Proposals

3. Move the definitions currently in footnotes 4 to 18 in Annex 4 to Chapter 1.2 in the alphabetical order:

“*ADN* means the European Agreement concerning the International Transport of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways, as amended.

EGC Code means the Code for Existing Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk.

GC Code means the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (Gas Carrier Code).

IBC Code means the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (International Bulk Chemical Code).

IGC Code means the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk, including applicable amendments to which the vessel has been certified.

IMDG Code means the International Maritime Dangerous Goods code, as amended.

IMSBC Code means the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code, as amended.

Rotterdam Convention means the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.”.

SOLAS means the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended.

Stockholm Convention means the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Consequential amendment: Delete footnotes 4 to 18 in Annex 4.

4. Amend the definition for MARPOL in Chapter 1.2 to read as follows:

“**MARPOL** means the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended.”

Justification: alignment with the definition currently in Annex 4.

5. Insert the following missing definitions in Chapter 1.2:

“**Aerosols (aerosol dispensers)** mean any non-refillable receptacles made of metal, glass or plastics and containing a gas compressed, liquefied or dissolved under pressure, with or without a liquid, paste or powder, and fitted with a release device allowing the contents to be ejected as solid or liquid particles in suspension in a gas, as a foam, paste or powder or in a liquid state or in a gaseous state.”

Chemicals under pressure mean liquids or solids (e.g., pastes or powders), pressurized with a gas at a pressure of 200 kPa (gauge) or more at 20 °C in pressure receptacles other than aerosol dispensers and which are not classified as gases under pressure.

Gases under pressure, mean gases which are contained in a receptacle at a pressure of 200 kPa (gauge) or more at 20 °C, or which are liquefied or liquefied and refrigerated. They comprise compressed gases, liquefied gases, dissolved gases and refrigerated liquefied gases.”.

6. Insert a definition for “VDI” in Chapter 1.2 to read as follows:

“**VDI** means the “Association of German Engineers”

Consequential amendment: Delete note and footnote “*” in table A4.3.9.3 and in paragraph A11.2.8.1.

7. “CA” Delete the definition of this acronym in Chapter 1.2.

Consequential amendment: In Annex 4, paragraph A4.2.1 replace “CA” by “competent authority”.

Justification: CA is only used once in the GHS (Annex 4, paragraph A4.2.1) and a definition for “competent authority” is given in Chapter 1.2.

8. “CBI” Delete the definition of this acronym in Chapter 1.2.

Consequential amendment: Replace “CBI” with “Confidential business information” in 1.4.8.1, 1.4.8.3 (a), (b), (c) and (f); 1.4.10.5.2 (d) (iv), Table 1.5.2 note under item 3; and note under A4.3.3.

Justification: The term “confidential business information” is used in only a few instances in the GHS and using the spelled-out form increases text readability.