

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 4 (c) of the provisional agenda

Cooperation with other bodies or international organizations

Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Note by the secretariat

1. At its fourth session, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), through resolution IV/4, initiated an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Several intersessional meetings have been held or are planned in preparation of ICCM5 (to be held from 5 to 9 October 2020 in Bonn, Germany).

2. A number of documents have been made available by the ICCM secretariat for the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.¹

3. The GHS is mentioned in several instances as the international standard for classification and labelling for the development of a legal and institutional framework. **Its level of implementation is used as one of the indicators** for the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

4. A technical expert workshop on indicators was held from 3 to 5 September in Cambridge, (United Kingdom). The expert group identified the status of implementation of the GHS as one of the tools to measure target achievements. The outputs from the workshop were circulated during the third meeting of the intersessional process² held in Bangkok from 1 to 4 October 2019 (see informal document SAICM/IP.3/INF/2)³.

5. Also, among the 11 basic elements recognized in the SAICM overall orientation and guidance (OOG) as critical at the national and regional levels for the attainment of sound chemicals and waste management, number 5 specifically addresses the GHS as follows:

“5. Collection and systems for the transparent sharing of relevant data and information among all relevant stakeholders using a life-cycle approach, such as implementation of the GHS”.

¹ <http://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/tabid/5500/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

² <http://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/ThirdIntersessionalmeeting/tabid/8024/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

³ http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/IP3/INF/SAICM_IP3_INF_2_Report_indicator-workshop.pdf

6. In view of the above it is expected that the need for updated information on the status of implementation of the GHS will increase, as this information will be used as an indicator to measure the implementation of SAICM.
7. Information on the GHS status of implementation may help assessing gaps and future needs for support in many countries, thus helping ICCM to take an informed decision at its fifth session on future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
8. The secretariat would like to invite the Sub-Committee to take note of the information above and to encourage governments and NGOs to provide regular updates on the status of implementation of the GHS so that the information on the webpage monitoring its implementation is up to date. Reports on implementation progress and expected adoption timeframes will become increasingly valuable to countries implementing the GHS for the first time or updating their legislation to most recent editions and will support furthering the goals of the GHS.
