



Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/9
23 April 2003

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH AND FRENCH

**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**
(7-9 July 2003)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH SESSION

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 h on Monday, 7 July 2003**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Reports of inter-sessional correspondence working groups
3. Cooperation with other international organizations
4. Proposals of amendments to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)
5. Implementation of the GHS
6. Capacity building
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with established practice, the first item on the agenda is its adoption on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat.

2. Reports of inter-sessional correspondence working groups

At its fourth session, the Sub-Committee established three inter-sessional correspondence working groups, namely the Group on Labelling, the Group on Precautionary Statements, and the Group on Safety Data Sheets, respectively lead by the experts from the United States of America, Germany and Australia. The objective of these groups is to give more precise guidance on the three related issues with a view to facilitating the practical implementation of the GHS. Informal papers on the progress made by these groups should be available in time. The experts from the lead countries may wish to provide information on the status of their work. It has been suggested that the three working groups should meet in parallel to the plenary session in order to collect the opinion of the delegations. The information paper of each group will be posted on the website in early June in order to give the delegations sufficient time to consult their experts in their home countries. The results of the consultations and orientations for further work will be briefly reported to the plenary session.

3. Cooperation with other international organizations

At its fourth session, the Sub-Committee invited the OECD to prepare a scoping document (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/2) on hazardous to the terrestrial environment relevant for the GHS, as several experts expressed the wish that the outcome of a previous OECD questionnaire on national terrestrial effect assessment be transmitted to the Sub-Committee, together with new information from any member of the Sub-Committee. Then, the Sub-Committee may wish to decide on the scope of the work and give a mandate to the OECD for further work on this issue.

The UNEP Ozone secretariat, aware of the GHS activities, wrote a letter to the Sub-Committee indicating their wish that the classification and labelling of ozone depleting substances into the GHS would be considered by the Sub-Committee and possibly included in its programme of work. Background document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/3, prepared by the Ozone secretariat in consultation with the Expert Group on Custom Codes nominated by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, summarizes the rationale under this request. The Sub-Committee may wish to discuss and decide about further actions to take on this matter.

As requested in paragraph 46 of the report of the fourth session of the Sub-Committee, the secretariat requested the secretariat of the Basel Convention to provide information on the work done by their technical group on how they classify hazardous wastes, how they would possibly use the GHS criteria and assess the risk associated with hazardous wastes. The secretariat of the Basel Convention will introduce document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/4.

4. Proposals of amendments to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

The GHS publication has been issued in English and should also be available in French before July 2003. Therefore, the text is now available as a basis for implementation. From now on, it is also possible to start updating this text. Comments on the classification of gas mixtures for toxic effects have been submitted by the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA) (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/1). A proposal for amendments in the hazard class on self-reactive substances (GHS, Chapter 2.8) has been submitted by the French delegation (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/5).

5. Implementation of the GHS

Experts, observers and international organizations concerned may wish to provide new or updated information to the Sub-Committee about progress in the GHS implementation and their role in promoting it.

6. Capacity building

Experts, observers and international organizations concerned, such as UNITAR, ILO and OECD, may wish to inform the Sub-Committee of any capacity-building activities or projects undertaken in relation to the GHS, for instance about the GHS capacity building programme and the preparations of the upcoming Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) "Forum IV" and its associated GHS side event (Bangkok, 2 November 2003).

7. Other business

At the time of writing, there is no other issue under this agenda item.

8. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Sub-Committee may wish to adopt the report on its fifth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Note 1: At its fourth session, the Sub-Committee of Experts elected Mrs. S. Kim Headrick (Canada) as Chairperson, and Ms. Anna-Liisa Sundquist (Finland) and Mr. Roque Puiatti (Brazil) as Vice-chairpersons for the biennium 2003-2004 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/8, para. 48).

Note 2: For reasons of economy, delegations are invited to keep their own copies of documents and to bring them to the meeting.

Note 3: Documents may be consulted on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe web site :

<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>

Note 4: In view of the security arrangements for access to the Palais des Nations, delegations are asked to inform the secretariat (UNECE Transport Division) of their exact composition. Access to the Palais des Nations will only be granted to those in possession of an identity card issued by the Safety and Security Section, Villa les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (see map on last page).

Delegates who are not in possession of a valid identity card are asked to fill out the registration form on page 6 in advance, and to send it by fax (41 22 917 00 39) or by E.mail (chantal.baudet@unece.org) no later than two weeks before the meeting commences.


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