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**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

Eighth session

Geneva, 7 (p.m)-9 December 2004

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE
FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 14 .30 h on Tuesday, 7 December 2004

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. Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

Reports of the Sub-Committee on its fifth, sixth and seventh sessions are contained in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/10, -/C.4/12 and -/C.4/14. The secretariat has prepared document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/15, which takes stock of all amendments to the GHS provisionally adopted during these sessions. The Sub-Committee will also be seized of new or pending proposals as formulated hereafter.

(a) Physical Hazards

(i) *Explosives:*

The Sub-Committee will consider a document by the expert from Norway (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/12), who proposes to improve hazard communication elements of chapter 2.1, as they are not deemed sufficient for ensuring consumer safety. The Sub-Committee will also pursue its discussions on *unstable* explosives as it has recognized at its seventh session that it was justified to classify this

category of hazard in the GHS for protecting the workplace (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/5 and -/5/Corr.1 by CEFIC and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/14, paras. 15 to 17).

(ii) *Explosives, self-reactive substances and organic peroxides:*

Based on the conclusions and final decision made by the Sub-Committee TDG at its twenty-sixth session on this issue, the Sub-Committee GHS will be invited to decide whether the modification of chapter 2.8 is needed so as to take into account substances having both oxidizing and self-reactive properties (see initial proposal ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/2 from France and ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2004/107 from the United States of America reproduced as UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.2). CEFIC will address the problem of thermal instability of substances of chapters 2.8 and 2.15 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/19).

(iii) *New label for organic peroxides:*

At their last respective sessions, both the Sub-Committee TDG and Sub-Committee GHS have accepted to modify the existing pictogram for organic peroxides so as to more efficiently indicate the nature of the associated danger (Chapter 2.15 of the GHS). On the basis of a document submitted by Norway (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/3), a new proposal about the transport pictogram has been submitted to the Sub-Committee TDG by the expert of the United States of America (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2004/106 reproduced as UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.3). The Sub-Committee may wish to take a decision on this pictogram in the light of the decision which will have been taken by Sub-Committee TDG at its twenty-sixth session.

(b) Health Hazards

(i) *Revision of Chapter 3.1:*

The OECD has submitted ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/16 for adoption, keeping in mind that a discussion on this issue has already taken place on the basis of an informal document produced at the seventh session (UN/SCEGHS/7/INF.17). When making its decision, the Sub-Committee will recall that CEFIC had proposed three amendments to this text for consideration, namely (i) in the title of table 3.1.1, to replace “and (approximate) LD50/LC50” with “acute toxicity estimates (ATE)”; (ii) in new 3.1.2.6.5, third line, to replace “may also label” with “will choose to label”; and (iii) in new Note 1 of Table 3.1.3, penultimate line, to replace “corrosive” with “causes serious damage to respiratory tract”.

(ii) *Clarification of Chapter 3.2:*

The expert from Sweden will propose an amendment to Chapter 3.2 to cover the case of solids which, in contact with moist skin or mucous membranes, may cause skin corrosion/irritation (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/23).

(iii) *Revision of Chapter 3.7:*

The OECD has submitted a final proposal on the classification of mixtures containing substances, which have an effect on or via lactation

(ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/17) for adoption; this proposal is based on an informal document produced at the seventh session (UN/SCEGHS/7/INF.16).

(iv) *Water Activated Toxicity:*

The Correspondence Group on WAT may wish to inform the Sub-Committee of its progress and objectives.

(c) Environmental Hazards

Ozone Depleting Substances:

Further progress on this issue will be presented by the ODS Correspondence Group.

(d) Others

Conforming amendments that follow up the adoption of new elements to the GHS:

The secretariat will introduce a series of notes, which aim at adjusting the different parts of the GHS text so that they conform to the various amendments that were adopted during the current biennium, including at its eighth session (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/13, ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/14, ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/24, ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/26). Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/21 from Japan also proposes to clarify a few discrepancies, which appear in the English text of the GHS.

3. Development of guidance for implementation

(a) *Precautionary Statements (PS):*

A revised version of the guidance document on Precautionary Statements elaborated by the Correspondence Group on PS has been submitted by the expert from Germany to the Sub-Committee for adoption (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/8/Rev.1). A meeting of the Correspondence Group will take place before the opening of the eighth session, with a view to taking account of the latest comments.

(b) *Safety Data Sheets (SDS):*

A guidance document on Safety Data Sheets, based on an initial proposal submitted at the seventh session and further amended by the Correspondence Group, has been submitted by the expert from Australia to the Sub-Committee for adoption (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/1 and -/1/Corr.1).

(c) *Labelling:*

A guidance document on Labelling has been submitted by the expert from the United States of America to the Sub-Committee for adoption (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/25). The Sub-Committee will also consider a proposal for work in the next biennium from the representative from the International Technical Committee for the Prevention and Extinction of Fire (CTIF) to develop a systematic approach for the colours/appearance of pictograms (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2004/8).

4. Implementation of the GHS

(a) Reports from Governments or organizations

As the implementation of the GHS is gaining momentum, the experts, observers and international organizations concerned may wish to provide new or updated information to the Sub-Committee about their respective progress on this issue, on the current and foreseeable situation in Sub-Committee's member countries and related measures taken, as well as on their role in promoting the GHS. They are encouraged to transmit their information in written form to the secretariat so that they would be reproduced as informal documents and posted on the web.

(b) Cooperation with other international organizations

The Sub Committee will be informed of the results of COP 7 of the Basel Convention, which will take place in Geneva (25-29 October 2004) and of decisions made which would be related to the classification of hazardous waste and/or to the activities of the Sub-Committee. Other international organizations may also wish to give information on their GHS-related activities and possible cooperation with the Sub-Committee.

(c) Miscellaneous

5. Capacity building

Experts, observers and international organizations concerned, such as UNITAR, ILO, OECD and WHO, may wish to inform the Sub-Committee of any capacity-building activities or projects undertaken in relation to the GHS.

6. Coordination and work programme

(a) Situation of the Programme of work of the biennium 2003-2004 and projects for the biennium 2005-2006

The OECD secretariat will inform the Sub-Committee of the progress made on the Sub-Committee's programme elements, which are carried out by the OECD Task Force on Harmonization of Classification and Labelling (HCL), and will introduce possible new elements for the next biennium work programme for consideration by the Sub-Committee. In particular, document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/20 on *Terrestrial hazards* will be discussed in this scope.

The Sub-Committee will be informed of progress made by the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods regarding the implementation of the GHS through legal instruments regulating the transport of dangerous goods, as well as of any other issues requiring cooperation between the two Sub-Committees.

In addition to the documents already mentioned above, other documents submitted to the sub-Committee TDG may be of interest to the Sub-Committee: e.g. ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/109 on environmentally hazardous substances (reproduced as UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.4).

The Sub-Committee will decide its programme of work and priorities for the period 2005-2006 on the basis of an informal document drafted by the secretariat.

(b) Future publication of the GHS

The Chairperson will introduce a note on the pace of issuance of future GHS publications and their date of implementation (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/22).

(c) Draft Resolution 2005/... of the Economic and Social Council

A draft resolution will be prepared by the secretariat for consideration by the Sub-Committee.

7. Other business

Election of officers for the biennium 2005-2006: According to usual practice, as this session is the last of the current biennium, the experts of the Sub-Committee will be invited to elect officers for the next biennium.

No document has been submitted 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 eighth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (eighth session)

Provisional Timetable

Tuesday 7 December		Wednesday 8 December		Thursday 9 December	
Agenda item		Agenda item		Agenda item	
a.m.	p.m. 14.30 h - 17.30 h	a.m. 09.30 h - 12.30 h	p.m. 14.30 h - 17.30 h	a.m. 09.30 h - 12.30 h	p.m. 14.30 h - 17.30 h
	Items 1 and 2	Items 2 (cont'd) and 3	4 and 5	Items 6, 7, 8	...(cont'd) and report adoption

Note : The Correspondence Group on Precautionary Statements will meet on Tuesday 7 December, 09.30 h -11.30 h , at the Palais de Nations, under the initiative of the lead country, Germany. More information on the meeting room will be communicated on the website as soon as possible (<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/activities.html>).