

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**

3 December 2010

Twentieth session

Geneva, 7–9 December 2010

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the GHS:

Reports on the status of implementation

Update on GHS implementation for the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America

1. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the United States of America has made significant strides toward adopting the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) into its Hazard Communication Standard. The framework of OSHA's current Hazard Communication Standard will remain in place after the GHS is adopted. However, current provisions that are in conflict with the GHS will be modified. Over one hundred comments were received in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, published on September 30, 2009. The Agency also held hearings in Washington, D.C. and Pittsburgh, PA earlier this year, where more than 40 panels participated and provided testimony.
2. The comments received from stakeholders overwhelmingly favored OSHA's proposal to adopt the GHS. Commenters generally agreed that harmonizing the current Hazard Communication Standard with the GHS would improve the quality and consistency of the rule. Several commenters also reasoned that adopting the GHS would enhance the effectiveness of the current Hazard Communication Standard by providing employers and employees with meaningful information about chemical hazards and hazard control strategies.
3. After the record closed on June 1st, 2010, Agency staff analyzed all testimony and stakeholder submissions. OSHA is currently in the process drafting the final rule, which will be developed and written based on the information submitted to the record. The final rule is expected to be published sometime next year.