

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 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the GHS:

Reports on the status of implementation

Implementation of the GHS in Canada

Transmitted by the expert from Canada

Introduction

1. On December 7, 2011, the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, Steven Harper, and the President of the United States (US), Barack Obama, announced the Joint Action Plan for Canada-US Regulatory Cooperation Council and made a commitment to align and synchronize implementation of common classification and labelling requirements for workplace hazardous chemicals. This announcement committed Canada to the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals for workplace chemicals in Canada by June 1, 2015.

2. Legislative amendments to implement the GHS received Royal Assent on June 19, 2014 and will come into force when related regulatory amendments are completed. The legislative amendments include: (i) changes to definitions and terminology; (ii) technical changes to regulatory authorities as they relate to classification criteria and hazard communication; and (iii) changes related to compliance and enforcement. The full text of the legislative amendments can be accessed at: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=6495200&Language=E&Mode=1&File=140>

3. In the coming weeks Canada expects to publish proposed GHS regulations for public comment. The proposed regulations would substantially harmonize Canadian classification and hazard communication requirements for workplace chemicals with those of the United States and other countries that have implemented the GHS. Canada will take the comments into consideration and make any necessary adjustments before publishing final regulations in fall 2014.

4. The amended legislation and regulations will come into force on or before June 1, 2015 and there will be a transition period to allow sufficient time for stakeholders to make the necessary adjustments to implement the new requirements.