



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

Thirty-ninth session

Geneva, 9-11 December 2020

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

Classification criteria and related hazard communication:

Review of Chapter 2.1

Decision logics for the new GHS Chapter 2.1

Transmitted by the expert from Sweden*

Introduction

1. As announced in paragraph 9 in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2020/20/Add.1–ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/5/Add.1, decision logics are needed to complete the new GHS Chapter 2.1. The annex to this document contains these proposed decision logics, which are derived from the definitions, scope and criteria of the proposed new Chapter 2.1 presented in the annex to document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2020/20–ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/5, as amended by document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2020/20/Add.1–ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/5/Add.1¹. The decision logics are to be inserted in section 2.1.4.1 of the chapter.

2. Under the leadership of the expert from Sweden, a small group of engaged experts took it upon themselves to develop the decision logics under quite some time pressure. There were somewhat different ideas on how to best squeeze the complex criteria for explosives into comprehensible flowcharts, and a multitude of options were tried. The outcome presented in the annex to this document represents the version of decision logics preferred by the expert from Sweden and has been checked for correctness by these other experts who may, or may not, in every detail agree with this version being optimal. A few additional experts of the Informal Correspondence Group for the Review of Chapter 2.1 (ICG) independently confirmed the correctness of these flowcharts when they were very swiftly circulated within that group for information only (due to time constraints).

3. In particular, there was a discussion in the drafting group around the order of the boxes regarding evaluation of whether there is a “high hazard effect” in the middle of the decision logic for the sub-categories (decision logic 2 (b), i.e. the second flowchart in the annex to this document). The order presented in the flowchart reflects that of the corresponding criteria in points (a) and (b) for sub-categories 2B and 2C (see the criteria table in section 2.1.2 of the

* 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect.20)) and Supplementary, Subprogramme 2.

¹ The full chapter, as amended, is presented in informal document INF.17 (fifty-seventh session) and informal document INF.14 (thirty-ninth session).

chapter). However, it was put forward that the reverse order of these boxes may be more helpful to a classifier to avoid the apparent need to look for test results. It was also considered whether some additional text and/or a footnote could be added instead to help the classifier in this respect, as in most cases test results will likely not be needed. No conclusion on this issue was reached amongst these experts before the deadline for this document, and it needs to be discussed more broadly within the ICG. An informal document may appear later to address this.

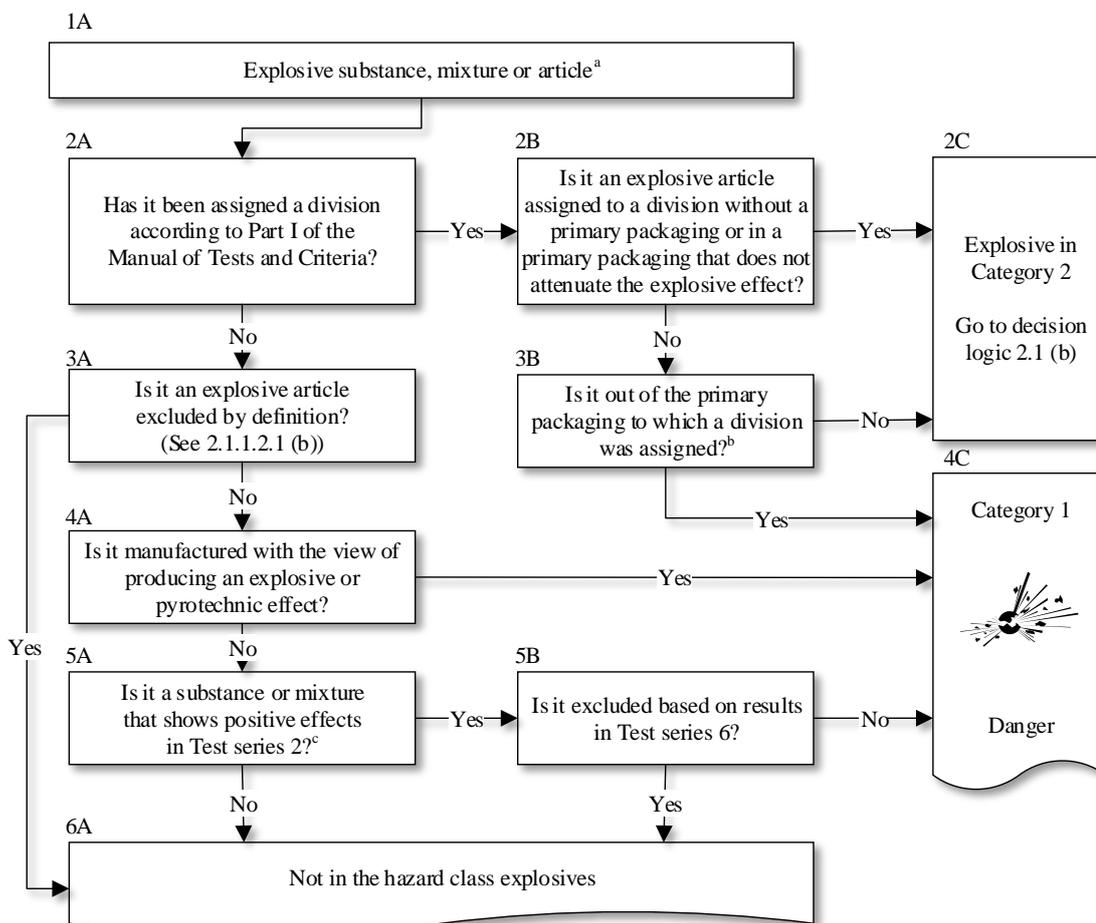
Proposal

4. The Sub-Committee is asked to consider insertion of the decision logics as presented in the annex to this document into section 2.1.4.1 of the new Chapter 2.1, to complete the chapter. The numbering of the boxes is to aid discussions only and is not intended to remain in the final decision logics included in the GHS.
5. The expert from Sweden wishes to express his appreciation to the experts of the small drafting group that worked very intensely on this matter, as well as to the other experts of the ICG that independently confirmed the correctness of the flowcharts despite being given very little time.

Annex

Proposed decision logics for section 2.1.4.1 of the new GHS Chapter 2.1

Decision logic 2.1 (a) for categories of explosives

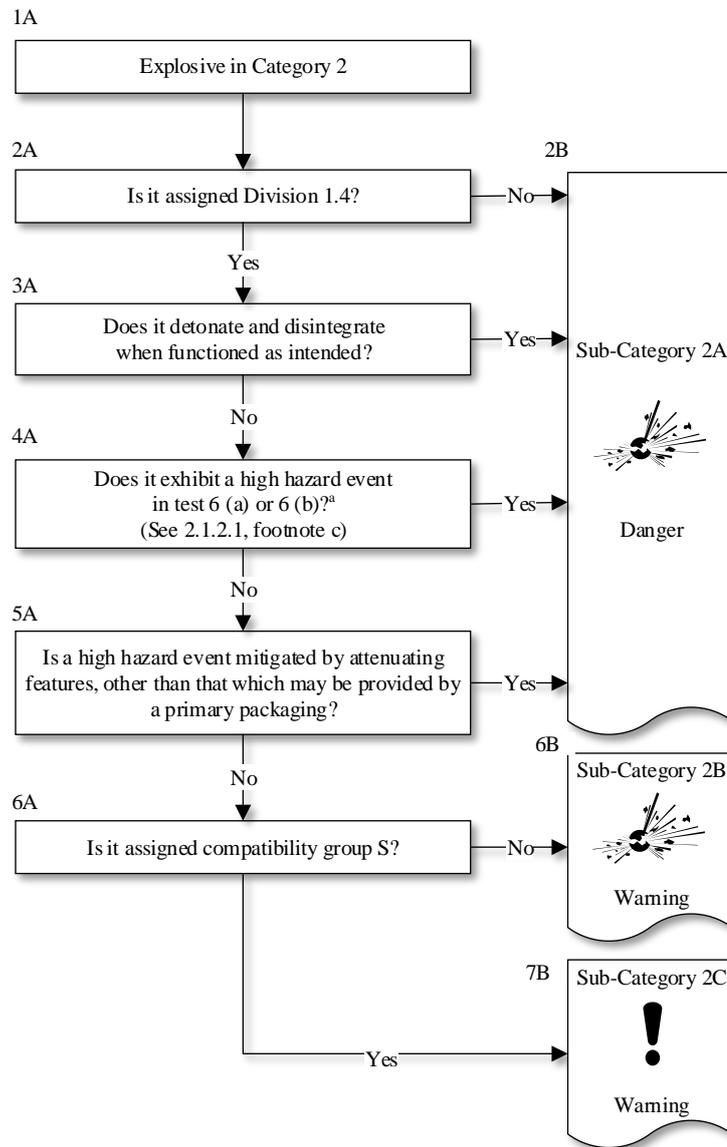


^a ANEs, desensitized explosives, organic peroxides and self-reactive substances and mixtures are classified in other hazard classes, see 2.1.1.2.2.

^b Unless it is for use, see 2.1.1.3.4.

^c Screening procedures may be used to avoid testing, see 2.1.1.2.2.

Decision logic 2.1 (b) for sub-categories of explosives



^a In the absence of results from test 6 (a) or 6 (b), results from test 6 (d) may be used to assess whether there was a high hazard event, see 2.1.2.1.