

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

21 October 2020

Thirty-ninth session

Geneva, 9-11 December 2020

Item 3 (i) of the provisional agenda

Classification criteria and related hazard communication:

Other issues

Comments on ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/11 “Deletion of definitions for physical hazard classes in chapter 1.2 of the GHS”

Transmitted by the expert from Canada

Background

1. Canada would like to thank the expert from Germany for the working document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/11 and the thought it has invoked with respect to definitions in the GHS.
2. With respect to the proposal outlined in paragraph 8 of ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/11, we believe that it would be a service to the reader, for comprehensibility, to indicate that the list of definitions and abbreviations in Chapter 1.2 of the GHS is only a partial list.
3. However, in our review of the definitions and abbreviations, we have also taken the following factors into consideration:
 - (a) Not all definitions and abbreviations listed in Chapter 1.2 are necessarily used throughout the GHS. For example, paragraph 5 of ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/2 proposes to move the abbreviations and definitions currently found in the footnotes of Annex 4 to Chapter 1.2. However, some of these abbreviations and definitions are used only once or twice in Annex 4 and are not used elsewhere in the GHS.
 - (b) Additional definitions found in the chapters for hazard classes are not all specifically definitions of the hazard classes. For example, in Chapter 4.1 (Hazardous to the Aquatic Environment), there are also definitions that are related to the hazard class, such as bioavailability, bioaccumulation and bioconcentration.
4. Therefore, in order to facilitate discussion at the Sub-Committee session, Canada proposes to modify the text proposed in paragraph 8 of ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/11 as follows (text that is new to the GHS is shown in bold; text that is deleted from the proposal is shown with strikethrough; text that is new to the proposal is underlined):

“This Chapter provides definitions and abbreviations of general applicability that are used ~~throughout~~ in the GHS. Additional definitions of the individual hazard classes and related terms are presented in the relevant chapters.

For the purpose of the GHS:”

Proposal

5. We invite the Sub-Committee to consider the modified text in paragraph 4 of this document.
-