

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**

6 November 2020

Thirty-ninth session

Geneva, 9-11 December 2020

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

Hazard communication:

**improvement of annexes 1 to 3 and further
rationalisation of precautionary statements**

Status of the work of the Annex 1-3 informal working group

**Transmitted by the expert from United Kingdom on behalf of the
informal working group**

Introduction

1. This informal paper provides an update on the work undertaken by the informal working group on the revision of Annexes 1-3 since the thirty-eighth session of the Sub-Committee.

Background

2. The Sub-Committee agreed the group's programme of work for the 2019-2020 biennium (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/72; informal document INF.25, 36th session).

3. At the thirty-eighth session of the Sub-Committee, updates on the progress of the working group were provided in informal document INF.23 (38th session) and in oral feedback from the informal working group meeting held on 12 December 2019. The Sub-Committee adopted the working groups proposals on changes to Annex 1¹, that had also been supported by the TDG Sub-Committee at their December 2019 meeting, and on proposals for corrections and amendments to Annex 3².

Status report

4. Since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee, the working group has actively taken forward, via correspondence, several items on its work programme. The outcomes include the following working and informal documents submitted by the United Kingdom on behalf of the working group for consideration by the Sub-Committee at its thirty-ninth session in December 2020:

¹ ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2019/12 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/76

² ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2019/15 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/76

- ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/12 – “Proposed changes to Annex 3 to prevent substances/mixtures classified as causing serious eye damage or eye irritation being transferred from the hand to the eye”;
 - Informal document INF.20 (thirty-ninth session) – “Status of the work of the Annex 1-3 informal working group”.
 - Informal document INF.21 (thirty-ninth session) – “Proposed work plan for 2021-2022 for the informal working group on the improvement of Annexes 1-3 of the GHS”.
5. The informal working group is currently progressing several other issues from their work plan including reviewing combination statements in Annex 3.
6. The working group will continue its work via correspondence and virtual meetings and no face-to-face meeting is currently planned for the group during the thirty-ninth session of the Sub-Committee due to the uncertainties of Covid-19 pandemic.
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