

## **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 2020**

**Thirty-ninth session**

Geneva, 9-11 December 2020

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Capacity building**

### **GHS Training experiences during the covid19 challenges**

#### **Transmitted by the Responsible Packaging Management Association of Southern Africa (RPMASA)**

##### **Purpose**

1. This paper is to inform the Sub-Committee on the current status of the GHS in South Africa, and RPMASA Training initiatives during covid19, and lockdowns.
2. Revision of the SA National Dept of Health, Hazardous Substances Act has been completed and is awaiting the parliamentary process. Similarly, the National Dept of Labour is progressing the Hazardous Chemical Agents Regulations where GHS Classification will underpin workplace Risk Assessments for exposure of workers, and require GHS compliant SDS and product labels.
3. The SA National Standard on GHS has at last been updated but only to the GHS fourth revision, and a new revision is in progress which will cross reference the seventh GHS revision.
4. Much of Industry has been waiting for these regulations to be gazetted before implementing the GHS, but happily they are now starting to understand that they need to get going as those who export have to be GHS compliant, and all will have to comply very soon in South Africa as well!
5. South Africa had a very hard lockdown starting in March when Travel between Provinces was banned, non-essential shops were closed, and working from home became the norm for most, as face to face meetings and Training were no longer allowed.
6. It soon became apparent that this situation was not going to change very soon so RPMASA took the initiative to present virtual GHS Training on MS Teams, with the first course for representatives from the City of Cape Town Health officials in June
7. Since June – we have presented:
  - 2 x GHS Introduction courses, one to a group of representatives from Civil Society Organisations from Kenya, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast and South Africa, who are looking for outreach and capacity building in these regions, and
  - 4 x Advanced GHS courses for Industry, plus an Advanced GHS Course tailored for representatives from SADC Pesticide and Health Regulators from Botswana, Eswatini, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Seychelles and South Africa, sponsored by Sweden.