

## 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

4 December 2020

### Thirty-ninth session

Geneva, 9-11 December 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

### Adoption of the agenda

## Conduct of business and provisional timetable for the thirty-ninth session

### Note by the secretariat

1. Reference is made to the revised provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/77/Rev.1 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/77/Rev.1/Add.1).
2. Following the agreement of the Sub-Committee with the proposed working arrangements circulated on 12 October in the letter from the chairperson, as an exceptional measure to minimise the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its work, the thirty-ninth session will allow for remote participation and will consist of two segments: an official segment and an informal segment.
3. The informal segment will be conducted via Webex, in English only, without interpretation. The official segment will be conducted via Interprefy, with interpretation into Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The meetings will take place as follows:

9 and 10 December (Wednesday and Thursday)	Informal segment: 9:30 to 12:30 (Geneva time)
	Official segment: 14:30 to 16:30 (Geneva time)
11 December (Friday)	Official segment: 10:00 to 12:00 (Geneva time)

4. The secretariat will circulate by email the links to join the informal and official segments via Webex and Interprefy to all delegates who have been duly accredited to attend the session.
5. Decisions on proposals submitted for consideration by the Sub-Committee will be taken during the official segment.
6. Given the limited time available for the session, no discussion is expected on proposals for which no objections were raised or on which an agreement was reached during the informal consultations in writing through the online platform. These proposals are deemed to be ready to be submitted for decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment.
7. Proposals for which some additional discussion is needed to solve pending issues or address pending questions will be briefly considered during the informal sessions and will be forwarded for consideration and decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment.

8. Taking the above into account, the secretariat, in consultation with the chairperson, has established the following timetable for the session:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Segment</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Wednesday 9 December	Informal segment	1, 2, 3 (a), (b), (c), (e), (i)
	Official segment	Decisions related to items discussed during the informal segment
Thursday 10 December	Informal segment	3 (i) ( <i>cont'd</i> ) 4 (a), (b), (d) 5 (a), (b) 8 (including 3 (d), (f), (g), (h) and 4 (c))
	Official segment	Decisions related to items discussed during the informal segment Items 9, 10 If time allows: items 5 (c) and (d), 6, 7, 11
Friday 11 December	Official segment	Item 12: Adoption of the report

9. For further details on the conduct of business during the informal and official segments refer to the information provided in the Annex.

## Annex

### Conduct of business during the informal and official segments<sup>1</sup>

Agenda item		Informal segment	Official segment
<b>1. Adoption of the agenda</b>			
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/77/Rev.1	Revised provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session		
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/77/Rev.1/Add.1	List of documents and annotations		
Informal document INF.17	Working arrangements for the session		
Informal document INF.11	Timetable for the informal discussions held in July in preparation	<i>Withdrawn (not relevant anymore)</i>	
<b>2. Recommendations made by the Sub-Committee at its thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions</b>			
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/15 (secretariat)	Consolidated list of draft amendments adopted by the Sub-Committee at its thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions	Brief introduction by the secretariat during the informal session to address the corrections raised on the online platform by UK and China to the matrix to precautionary statements for Explosives and the note under table A1.5.  In the absence of additional comments, no further discussion is expected during the informal segment. The document will be forwarded for decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment.	The Sub-Committee will be invited to confirm the recommendations made at its previous sessions, with the corrections notified by UK and China.

<sup>1</sup> The documents listed hereafter are those already available at the time of writing. Any additional document submitted for consideration during the session will be included in informal document INF.2, to be made available on Tuesday 8 December.

Agenda item	Informal segment	Official segment	
<b>3. Classification criteria and related hazard communication</b>			
<b>(a) Work of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) on matters of interest to the GHS Sub-Committee</b>			
<p>ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/4, ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/4/Add.1 and Informal document INF.3 (Chairman of the Working Group on Explosives)</p> <p>Outcome of the discussions of the TDG Sub-Committee on matters of interest to the Sub-Committee</p>	<p>Manual of Tests and Criteria, review of Test Series H: determination of self-accelerating decomposition temperature</p> <p>Report of the Explosives Working Group; INF.38 (TDG, 57<sup>th</sup> session)<sup>2</sup> paragraph 7</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee will be informed about the recommendations by the Explosives Working Group and the decision taken by the TDG Sub-Committee on the amendment to Section 28 of the Manual of Tests and Criteria. No further discussion on the proposals is expected during the informal segment.</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee will be invited to take note of the decisions taken by the TDG Sub-Committee on the review of test series H of the Manual of Test and Criteria</p>
<p>ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/9 (France)</p>	<p>Tests for oxidizing liquids and oxidizing solids: improvement regarding consideration for particle size, friable or coated materials</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee will be informed about the decisions taken by the TDG Sub-Committee. No further discussion on the proposal is expected during the informal segment.</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee will be invited to take note of the decisions taken by the TDG Sub-Committee.</p>
<p>Outcome of the discussions of the TDG Sub-Committee on matters of interest to the Sub-Committee</p>	<p>Report of the Explosives Working Group INF.38 (TDG, 57<sup>th</sup> session) on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of Tests series 6,</li> <li>- Improvement of test series 8;</li> <li>- review of packing instructions for explosives,</li> <li>- Test N.1 for readily combustible solids;</li> <li>- UN Gap Test;</li> <li>- Exclusion from Class 1;</li> <li>- Use of the terms “risk” and “hazard/danger”;</li> </ul>	<p>The Sub-Committee will be informed about the decisions taken by the TDG Sub-Committee on the issues listed in INF.38, paragraphs 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. No further discussion on the proposals is expected during the informal segment.</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee will be invited to take note of the decisions taken by the TDG Sub-Committee.</p>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2020/dgac10c3/UN-SCETDG-57-INF38e.pdf>

Agenda item	Informal segment	Informal segment	Official segment
<b>(b) Review of Chapter 2.1</b>			
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/5, ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/5/Add.1 and Informal document INF.14 (Sweden)	New Chapter 2.1 for the GHS	The Sub-Committee will be informed about the outcome of the discussions of the explosives working group on the review of Chapter 2.1 of the GHS and on the subsequent recommendations made by the TDG Sub-Committee.	The Sub-Committee will be informed about the outcome of the discussions during the informal segment and will be invited to take a decision on the proposals.
Informal document INF.19 (Sweden)  Informal document INF.29 (Sweden)	Products not classified as Class 1 for transport  Amendments to INF.19		
Informal document INF.30 (Sweden) ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/18 (Sweden)	Decision logics for the new Chapter 2.1	Time allocated for discussion during the informal segment: 1 hour.	
Informal document INF.22 (Germany) Informal document INF.25 (Sweden)			
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/8, ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/8/Add.1 and Informal document INF.16 (Sweden)	Allocation of precautionary statements for the new Chapter 2.1		
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/16 (Sweden)	Amendments to the Manual of Tests and Criteria to accommodate the new GHS Chapter 2.1		
Outcome of the discussions of the TDG Sub-Committee on matters of interest to the Sub-Committee	Report of the Explosives Working Group Informal document INF.38 (TDG, 57 <sup>th</sup> session) <sup>3</sup> , paragraphs 13 to 15		
<b>Background documents</b>			
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/7 (Sweden)	Amendments to the Manual of Tests and Criteria to accommodate the new GHS Chapter 2.1 – in principle		
Informal document INF.10 (IME, SAAMI)	GHS Chapter 2.1: Revised exclusion and exemption criteria for explosive - containing articles not assigned to Class 1		

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2020/dgac10c3/UN-SCETDG-57-INF38e.pdf>

Agenda item	Informal segment	Official segment
Informal document INF.13 (Sweden)	Status report (3 July 2020) on the review of GHS Chapter 2.1 – update on the open issue	
<b>(c) Clarification of 2.9.3.4.3.4 of the Model Regulations and 4.1.3.3.4 of the GHS</b>		
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/10 (China)	Clarification of 2.9.3.4.3.4 of Model Regulations and 4.1.3.3.4 of GHS	<p>The Sub-Committee will be informed about the recommendations made by the TDG Sub-Committee.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee will be invited to take a decision on the proposal.</p> <p>Considering the feedback received during the informal consultations in writing and the recommendations made by the TDG Sub-Committee, no further discussion on the proposal is expected during the informal segment. In the absence of further comments, the proposal will be forwarded for decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment.</p>
<b>(d) Simultaneous classification in physical hazard classes and precedence of hazards</b>		
No document has been submitted under this agenda item	Item to be considered during the official segment	The expert from Germany will be invited to inform the Sub-Committee about its intention to continue work on this item during the next biennium, as indicated in the comments provided during the informal consultations in writing on the online platform.

Agenda item	Informal segment	Official segment
<b>(e) Use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health hazards</b>		
Informal document INF.12 and INF.12/Rev.1 (UK, Netherlands)	Use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health hazards: Status report (3 July 2020 and 16 November 2020)	The experts from the UK and the Netherlands will be invited to inform the Sub-Committee about any further comment or progress made since the status reports were circulated. No further discussions on these documents is expected during the informal segment.
Informal document INF.26 (UK, Netherlands)	Revised terms of reference for the IWG NATM	The Sub-Committee will be invited to provide comments on the proposed revised terms of reference for the work of the informal working group for the next biennium.  In the absence of comments, the proposal will be forwarded for decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment.
<b>(f) Practical classification issues</b>		
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/14 (USA) Informal document INF.32 (USA)	Proposal to address issues from the program of work for the practical classification issues: correspondence group	The Sub-Committee will be invited provide comments on the proposals for the work of the informal working group for the next biennium.  In the absence of comments, the proposal will be forwarded for decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment.
The Sub-Committee will be invited to take note of the progress reports.	The Sub-Committee will be invited to consider for adoption the proposed revised terms of reference in informal document INF.26.	The Sub-Committee will be invited to consider for adoption the proposed work items for the work of the informal working group for the next biennium.

Agenda item	Informal segment	Official segment
<p><b>(g) Aspiration hazard</b></p> <p>At the time of writing no document has been submitted under this agenda sub-item.</p>	<p>Item to be considered under agenda item 8, during the official segment</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee will invite the representative of IPPIC to provide an update on progress made on this topic.</p> <p>Based on the information provided, the Sub-Committee will consider whether this topic should continue to be listed on its programme of work for the next biennium.</p>
<p><b>(h) Nanomaterials</b></p> <p>At the time of writing no document has been submitted under this agenda sub-item.</p>	<p>Item to be considered under agenda item 8, during the official segment</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee may wish to consider whether will consider whether this topic should continue to be listed on its programme of work for the next biennium.</p>
<p><b>(i) Other issues</b></p>		
<p><b>Definitions and use of acronyms and abbreviation in the GHS</b></p>		
<p>ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/2 (secretariat)</p> <p>ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/11 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/11/Add.1 (Germany)</p>	<p>Definitions and use of acronyms and abbreviations in the GHS</p> <p>Deletion of definitions for physical hazard classes in chapter 1.2 of the GHS</p>	<p>Based on the comments submitted in writing during the informal consultations, the secretariat understands that there is support for the proposals in paragraphs 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 in -document 2020/2, as well as the proposal in paragraph 7, as amended in document -2020/11 and INF.18.</p> <p>In the absence of comments, the proposal will be forwarded for decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee will be invited to consider for adoption the proposals in paragraphs 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 in -document 2020/2, as well as the proposal in paragraph 7, as amended in document -2020/11 and INF.18.</p>



Agenda item	Informal segment	Official segment
<p><b>Review of the decision logics</b></p> <p>ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/3 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/3/Add.1 (secretariat)</p>	<p>Review of the decision logics</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee will be invited to consider for adoption the proposals that there is support for the proposals in 2020/3 and 3/Add.1 (proposals 3, 5 and the correction in paragraph 6), as well as the proposal for correction to the French version proposed by Canada.</p>
<p><b>Background documents</b></p> <p>Informal document INF.5 (secretariat)</p> <p>Informal document INF.6 (Germany)</p> <p>Informal document INF.8 (secretariat)</p>	<p>Corrections to the decision logics in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/3 (French version)</p> <p>Comments on ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/3</p> <p>Comments on informal document INF.6</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee will be invited to consider for adoption the proposals that there is support for the proposals in 2020/3 and 3/Add.1 (proposals 3, 5 and the correction in paragraph 6), as well as the proposal for correction to the French version proposed by Canada.</p>
	<p>In addition, the secretariat will take into account a correction to the French version, following a comment from Canada.</p> <p>However, there is no clear agreement on the consequential amendments in paragraph 5 in document 2020/3/Add.1 and <b>some discussion may be needed during the informal session to reach an agreement.</b></p>	<p>The Sub-Committee will be informed about the outcome of the discussions on the consequential amendments in paragraph 5 in document 2020/3/Add.1 and will be invited to take a decision.</p> <p>On the proposal in informal document INF.6, the Sub-Committee will be invited to note that Germany intends to work on the general principles for the design, presentation and structure of the decision logics outlined in INF.6 during the next biennium.</p>

Agenda item	Informal segment	Official segment
<p><b>Workplace labelling: clarification of 1.4.10.5.5.1</b></p> <p>ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/6 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/6/Add.1 (secretariat)</p> <p>Workplace labelling: clarification of 1.4.10.5.5.1</p>	<p>Based on the comments submitted in writing during the informal consultations, the secretariat understands that there is support for the proposal in option 3 (b) (i.e. “Product identifier”) in 2020/6/Add.1. However, <b>some discussion may be needed during the informal segment</b> to address a question from the Netherlands on the interpretation and use of “product identifier” in relation to “main ingredient”.</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee will be invited to consider the discussions held during the informal segment and to take a decision on the proposals in 2020/6/Add.1.</p>
<p><b>Clarification of the criteria for classification for germ cell mutagenicity in category 1B</b></p> <p>ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/13 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/13/Add.1 (EU)</p> <p>Clarification of the criteria for classification for germ cell mutagenicity in category 1B</p>	<p>The representative of the European Union will inform the Sub-Committee of the outcome of the informal discussions held as a follow up to the comments received in writing through the online platform.</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee will be invited to consider the proposals for further work during the next biennium outlined in - 2020/13/Add.1 and informal document INF.7.</p>
<p><b>Background document</b></p> <p>Informal document INF.7 (Germany)      Comments on ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/13</p>		
<p><b>(j) New proposals</b></p> <p>At the time of writing no document has been submitted under this agenda sub-item.</p>		

Agenda item	Informal segment	Official segment	
<b>4. Hazard communication</b>			
<b>(a) Practical labelling issues</b>			
Informal document INF.28 (Cefic)	Terms of reference for the informal working group and programme of work for the next biennium	The representative of Cefic will be invited to update the Sub-Committee on any feedback received on the proposals in INF.28. In the absence of comments, the proposal will be forwarded for decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment.	The Sub-Committee will be invited to take a decision on proposed terms of reference and programme of work for the informal working group for 2021-2022
<b>(b) Improvement of annexes 1 to 3 and further rationalization of precautionary statements</b>			
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/12 and Informal document INF.4 (UK)	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	The expert from the UK will be invited to update the Sub-Committee on any feedback received on the proposals in 2020/12 and INF.4. In the absence of comments, the proposal will be forwarded for decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment.	The Sub-Committee will be invited to take a decision on the proposed amendments to Annex 3.
Informal document INF.20 (UK)	Status of the work of the informal working group on the improvement of annexes 1-3		The Sub-Committee will be invited to take note of the information provided.
<b>(c) Review of Annex 4, sub-section A4.3.3.2.3</b>			
At the time of writing no document has been submitted under this agenda sub-item.	Item to be considered under agenda item 8, during the official segment	The Sub-Committee may wish to consider whether this topic should continue to be listed on its programme of work for the next biennium.	

Agenda item	Informal segment	Official segment	
<b>(d) Other issues</b>			
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/1 (secretariat)	Review and update of references to documents and test guidelines in annexes 9 and 10 of the GHS	Based on the comments submitted in writing during the informal consultations, the secretariat notes that views are divided on the choice of options. <b>Some additional discussion may be needed during the informal segment</b> to reach an agreement.	The Sub-Committee will be informed about the outcome of the discussions during the informal sessions and will be invited to take a decision on the proposals in document -2020/1
Informal document INF.9 and INF.9/Rev.1(ICMM)	Update on the alignment of Annex 9 (section 9.7) and Annex 10 (on metals and metal compounds) to the criteria in Chapter 4.1 and the generic environmental hazard guidance	In the absence of comments, the proposal will be forwarded for decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment. No further discussion is expected during the informal segment.	The Sub-Committee will be invited to take note of the information provided and agree on the continuation of the work during the next biennium.
<b>(e) New proposals</b>			
At the time of writing no document has been submitted under this agenda sub-item.			
<b>5. Implementation of the GHS</b>			
<b>(a) Possible development of a list of chemicals classified in accordance with the GHS</b>			
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/17 (Canada, USA)	Status update on and proposal for the ongoing work of the global list informal correspondence group	In the absence of comments, the proposal will be forwarded for decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment. No further discussion is expected during the informal segment.	The Sub-Committee will be invited to take note of the information provided and agree on the continuation of the work during the next biennium.
<b>(b) Reports on the status of implementation</b>			
Informal document INF.33 and addenda.1, 2 (secretariat)	Draft report on the status of implementation of the GHS	After a brief introduction, no further discussion is expected during the informal segment.	The Sub-Committee will be invited to take note of the information provided.
<b>(c) Cooperation with other bodies or international organizations</b>			
At the time of writing no document has been submitted under this agenda sub-item.		Item to be considered only if time allows	

Agenda item	Informal segment	Official segment	
<b>(d) Miscellaneous</b>			
At the time of writing no document has been submitted under this agenda sub-item.	Item to be considered only if time allows		
<b>6. Development of guidance on the application of GHS criteria</b>			
At the time of writing no document has been submitted under this agenda sub-item.	Item to be considered only if time allows		
<b>7. Capacity building</b>			
Informal document INF.34 (RPMASA)	Item to be considered only if time allows		
<b>8. Programme of work for the biennium 2021-2022</b>			
Informal document INF.15 (Japan)	Clarification of the criteria for classification for skin sensitization using animal studies	The Sub-Committee may wish to consider the items for its programme of work for 2021-2022 listed under this and other agenda items for this session	The Sub-Committee will be invited to decide on the items to be included on its programme of work for 2021-2022.
Informal document INF.21 (UK)	Proposed workplan for the IWG on improvement of annexes 1 to 3 for 2020-2021		
Informal document INF.23 (Germany)	Review of the tiered approach for classification of mixtures		
Informal document INF.27 (UK, Netherlands)	Continuation of work on non-animal testing		
Informal document INF.31 (USA)	Proposed workplan for the PCI group		
<b>9. Draft Resolution 2021/... of the Economic and Social Council</b>			
Informal document INF.24 (secretariat)	Draft ECOSOC Resolution 2021/...	In the absence of comments, the proposal will be forwarded for decision by the Sub-Committee during the official segment. No further discussion is expected during the informal segment.	The Sub-Committee will be invited to consider and adopt the draft ECOSOC resolution 2021/... prepared by the secretariat.

Agenda item	Informal segment	Official segment
<p><b>10. Election of officers for the biennium 2021-2022</b></p>		<p>The Sub-Committee will be invited to elect officers for the biennium 2021-2022 among the representatives of its member countries.</p>
<p><b>11. Other business</b></p> <p>At the time of writing no document has been submitted under this agenda item.</p>	<p>Item to be considered only if time allows</p>	
<p><b>12. Adoption of the report</b></p>		<p>In accordance with established practice, the Sub-Committee may wish to adopt the report on its thirty-ninth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.</p>