

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**

28 June 2021

Fortieth session

Geneva, 5-7 July 2021

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the GHS:

possible development of a list of chemicals classified in accordance with the GHS

Status update on the ongoing work of the global list informal correspondence group

**Transmitted by the experts from Canada and the United States of
America on behalf of the informal correspondence group**

Background and update

1. At the thirty-ninth session, the co-chairs provided a status update on the ongoing work of the global list informal correspondence group and the Sub-Committee adopted the informal correspondence group's programme of work for the biennium 2021-2022 (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/78 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/17). The expert from Sweden informed the Sub-Committee that their study to analyse if and how substance classification lists are used or can be used as an instrument to promote GHS implementation (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/17 paragraphs 5 to 7) was in the final drafting stage.
2. As a next step, the co-chairs proposed that once ready, the informal correspondence group could evaluate the findings of Sweden's study and discuss potential opportunities to conduct complementary work to address the first two items from work stream A on the programme of work. The first two items of work stream A are to identify existing classification lists that follow the GHS and compare these lists with the guiding principles in Annex III to the report of the twenty-fourth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4.48). The goal of the guiding principles is to ensure that classifications are developed transparently, with stakeholder input, from publically-available and electronically-available data, and be non-binding.
3. After the finalization of the report on Sweden's study, "The Role of National Substance Classification Lists in the Implementation of the GHS", attached as an addendum to this document (see INF.15/Add.1), the co-chairs held a webinar for the informal correspondence group on 18 May 2021.
4. During this meeting, the lead consultant for Sweden's study presented the study findings. The study surveyed twenty-one countries or jurisdictions, of which eight responded that they had a classification list. The lead consultant discussed advantages and disadvantages of classification lists, and the study concluded that lists are a way to enhance GHS implementation, can simplify trade, and that countries that have not yet implemented GHS are planning to but are looking for assistance.
5. Following the presentation and a question and answer period, the co-chairs facilitated a discussion on opportunities to conduct complementary work to address items (a) and (b) of Work stream A.

6. The co-chairs shared their plan to lead the administration of a survey to fill in knowledge gaps with respect to existing national, regional and third-party classification lists that follow the GHS and how they compare to the guiding principles. This would be based on the guiding principle questions developed by the informal correspondence group in 2020 (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/17 paragraph 4).

7. The co-chairs would compile the survey results into a matrix comparing these lists to the guiding principles. Tentatively, the survey would commence in July or August, with results being compiled in September through to November, with the end goal of presenting the results in an informal paper to the Sub-Committee in December 2021. The informal correspondence group could then evaluate the findings and discuss potential next steps, whether continuing with items from Work stream A, or actioning items from Work stream B or C.

8. At present, there was no interest in conducting parallel work to the administration of the survey, but it was considered that some of the items from the programme of work would require longer term planning, such as Work stream B. The co-chairs expressed that the results of the survey would play a key role in helping to decide the appropriate next steps. The informal correspondence group was asked to start thinking on whether there was interest in specific additional items from the programme of work or any capacity to take on these items when the time comes.

Discussion

9. The informal correspondence group identified the lists presented in the Annex to this document as national, regional or third-party classification lists that follow the GHS. The survey would be administered on the basis of these lists.

10. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider whether the information in the Annex to this document is correct and if there are additional lists to be added or additional information to be included. Additionally, the Sub-Committee is invited to provide contacts for the lists in the Annex to this document for the circulation of the survey.

11. After consultation with the informal correspondence group, it was determined that the survey be administered in English using plain language, with the potential to consider translation on a case-by-case basis. The survey is further planned to be circulated in both electronic format and as a pdf version for accessibility, and would be sent to the informal correspondence group for a technical review prior to its administration. It was raised in the informal correspondence group that the co-chairs should cross-reference Sweden's study to prevent overlap in the survey, as some, but not all, of the guiding principle questions developed by the group were addressed. The co-chairs acknowledged that the intent of the survey is to focus on filling the knowledge gaps with respect to the classification lists and how they compare to the guiding principles. It should be noted that there may be some overlap in order to capture third-party classification lists that were outside the scope of Sweden's study.

12. The Sub-Committee is invited to provide feedback on the administration of the survey and next steps outlined in paragraphs 6 to 8 and 11 of this document to the co-chairs of the informal correspondence group.

Annex

List of chemical classification lists that follow the GHS

(e.g., national, regional, third-party lists, see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2020/17 Annex, Work stream A(a))

Responsible Authority	List Name	Weblink (if available)
Australia – Safe Work Australia	Hazardous Chemical Information System (HCIS)	http://hcis.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/HazardousChemical
Canada – Health Canada	WHMIS Classifications	Not applicable
China - State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS)	Catalogue of Hazardous Chemicals (2015)	To be determined
European Union - European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)	EU Harmonised C&L (Annex VI to Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008) and opinions of the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC))	Annex VI to the EU CLP Regulation: https://echa.europa.eu/information-on-chemicals/annex-vi-to-clp RAC opinions: https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-clh-intentions-until-outcome
International Labour Organization (ILO)/ World Health Organization (WHO)	International Chemical Safety Cards	https://www.ilo.org/safework/info/publications/WCMS_113134/lang--en/index.htm
International Maritime Organization (IMO) - Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) an advisory body to the UN system (IMO, FAO, UNESCO-IOC, WMO, IAEA, UN, UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP, ISA)	GESAMP Composite List	https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/OurWork/Environment/Documents/GESAMP%20Composite%20List%20of%20hazard%20profiles-2019.pdf
Japan - National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE)	GHS Classification Results by the Japanese Government	http://www.safe.nite.go.jp/english/ghs/ghs_index.html
Malaysia - Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH)	Industry Code of Practice (ICOP) Part I List of Classified Chemicals	https://www.dosh.gov.my/index.php/legislation/codes-of-practice/chemical-management/3460-industry-code-of-practice-on-chemicals-classification-and-hazard-communication-amendment-2019-part-1/file
New Zealand – Environmental Protection Authority	Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Chemical Classification Information Database (CCID)	https://www.epa.govt.nz/database-search/chemical-classification-and-information-database-ccid/ https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Documents/Hazardous-Substances/GHS2/GHS_Classifications_and_Fates_30_April_2021.xlsx
Republic of Korea - National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER)	National Chemicals Information System (NCIS)	https://ncis.nier.go.kr/en/main.do
Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods – maintained by UN Secretariat	Dangerous goods list	Part 3, Chapter 3.2 of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations Volume I https://unece.org/rev-21-2019
Vietnam - Vietnam Chemicals Agency and Ministry of Industry and Trade	National Chemical Inventory	http://chemicaldata.gov.vn/cms.xc
World Health Organization (WHO)	The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and guidelines to classification, 2019 edition	https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240005662