

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Eleventh session

Geneva, 9 December 2022

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for 2023-2024

Draft consolidated programme of work for 2023-2024

Note by the secretariat

1. The Committee may wish to consider the proposals made by the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee) and the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Sub-Committee) at their December 2022 sessions for their respective programmes of work and approve them in the light of resources available for 2023–2024.

A. Programme of work for the TDG Sub-Committee

2. Based on the proposals discussed and approved under various agenda items during its sixty-first session, the TDG Sub-Committee agreed to include the following items in its work programme for 2023-2024:

- (a) Explosives and related matters (including review of test series 6; improvement of test series 8; review of tests in parts I, II and III of the Manual of Tests and Criteria; UN standard detonators; energetic samples; review of packaging and transport requirements for ammonium nitrate emulsions; electrification and alternative fuels and how they will affect transport of explosives);
- (b) Listing, classification and packing (including amendments for an adequate classification of chlorophenols);
- (c) Electric storage systems (including testing of lithium batteries; hazard-based system for classification of lithium batteries; transport provisions; damaged or defective lithium batteries; and sodium-ion batteries);
- (d) Transport of gases (including global recognition of UN and non-UN pressure receptacles; limited quantities for division 2.2);
- (e) Miscellaneous proposals of amendments to the Model Regulations (including marking and labelling issues; packaging, including the use of recycled plastics material; portable tanks);
- (f) Global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations with the Model Regulations;
- (g) Cooperation with International Atomic Energy Agency;
- (g) Global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations with the Model Regulations;
- (h) Guiding principles for the Model Regulations;

- (i) Issues relating to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (including testing of oxidizing substances; simultaneous classification in physical hazards and possible combination of hazards);
- (j) Unified interpretations of the Model Regulations;
- (k) Implementation of the Model Regulations;
- (l) Dangerous goods safety training and capacity building;
- (m) United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (n) Opportunities to enhance operational efficiency and inclusiveness.

B. Programme of work for the GHS Sub-Committee

1. Classification criteria and related hazard communication, including:

- (a) Tests for oxidizing liquids and oxidizing solids
Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee
Terms of reference: informal documents INF.22 (thirty-sixth session), INF.19 (thirty-fifth session) and report of the Sub-Committee on its thirty-sixth and thirty-ninth sessions (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/72, paragraph 19 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/78, paragraph 13). See also paragraph [...] of the present report.
- (b) Use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health and environmental hazards
Focal points: Netherlands and United Kingdom
Terms of reference and workplan: informal document INF.16 (forty-third session). See also paragraph [...] of the present report
- (c) Classification criteria for germ cell mutagenicity
Focal point: Informal working group on germ cell mutagenicity (work organised by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission)
Terms of Reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2021/3 as amended by informal document INF.24 (fortieth session). See also paragraph [...] of the present report.
- (d) Practical classification issues
Focal point: United States of America
Terms of reference and workplan: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2022/21, paragraph 2 and informal documents INF.34 and INF.14 (forty-third session). See also paragraphs [...] of the present report.
- (e) Nanomaterials
Terms of reference: informal document INF.27 (thirty-second session) and reports of the Sub-Committee on its thirty-second, thirty-sixth and thirty-eighth sessions (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/64, paragraph 32; ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/72, paragraph 42; ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/76, paragraph 24) and paragraph [...] of the present report.

- (f) Simultaneous classification in physical hazard classes and precedence of hazards

Focal point: Germany

Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2018/21, as amended and report of the Sub-Committee on its thirty-sixth session (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/72, paragraph 74). See also paragraph [...] of the present report.

- (g) Potential hazard issues and their presentation in the GHS

Focal point: European Union

Terms of reference and workplan: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2022/18 as amended in informal document INF.39 (forty-third session) and paragraphs [...] of the present report.

2. Other hazard communication matters, including:

- (a) Practical labelling issues

Focal point: Cefic

Background document: informal document INF.32 (forty-third session). See also paragraph [...] of the present report.

- (b) Improvement of Annexes 1 to 3 and further rationalization of precautionary statements

Focal point: United Kingdom

Terms of reference and workplan: informal document INF.17 (forty-third session). See also paragraph [...] of the present report.

- (c) Hazard communication for gases addressed in the Montreal Protocol and other Conventions

Focal points: Austria, United Kingdom, United States of America, European Union

Terms of reference and workplan: informal document INF.37 (forty-third session). See also paragraph [...] of the present report.

3. Implementation issues, including:

- (a) Assessing the possible development of a list of chemicals classified in accordance with the GHS

Focal points: Canada and United States of America

Terms of reference and workplan: informal document INF.30 (forty-third session). See also paragraphs [...] of the present report.

- (b) Facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS in countries and monitor the status of implementation of the GHS

- (c) Cooperate with other bodies or international organizations responsible for the administration of international agreements and conventions dealing with the management of chemicals to give effect to the GHS through such instruments

4. Guidance on the application of the GHS criteria, including:

Development of examples illustrating application of criteria and any related hazard communication issues, as needed

Focal point: United States of America

Terms of reference: informal document INF.31 (thirty-ninth session), ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/78, paragraph 27 and informal document INF.34 (forty-third session). See also paragraph [...] of the present report.

5. Capacity building, including:

- (a) Review reports on training and capacity-building activities
 - (b) Provide assistance to United Nations programmes and specialized agencies involved in training and capacity-building activities, such as UNITAR, ILO, FAO and WHO/IPCS through the development of guidance materials, advice with respect to their training programmes and identification of available expertise and resources.
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