

## **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**

22 June 2023

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Work on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and  
Labelling of Chemicals: Use of non-animal testing methods  
for classification of health hazards**

## **Use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health hazards: Status report**

**Transmitted by the experts from the United Kingdom and the  
Netherlands on behalf of the informal working group**

### **Introduction**

1. This informal document provides an update on the work performed by the informal working group on “Use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health hazards” since the last update provided to the Sub-Committee at the forty-third session in December 2022.

### **Background**

2. At the forty-third session, the Sub-Committee agreed to keep the work on the use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health and environmental hazard classes on its programme of work for the 2023-2024 biennium.<sup>1</sup> Updates on the progress of the groups work are provided to the Sub-Committee at each session of the biennium.

3. The informal working group presently has approximately 60 members, reflecting the importance of, and interest in, this work. Its membership includes experts with specialised knowledge of test methods and their application to classification, and experts on national legislation that implements GHS. Discussions are often lively and detailed, but overall are propelled by a strong desire to make progress on the informal working group’s mandate and ensure that non-animal test methods are consistently incorporated in the GHS in a way that reflects their growing importance and scientific relevance, whilst recognising their limitations.

### **Status report**

4. Since the last update to the Sub-Committee in December 2022<sup>2</sup>, the informal working group has continued to work hard on the further revision of chapter 3.4 for skin sensitization in relation to mixtures for the inclusion of non-animal testing methods via correspondence, virtual meetings (17 January 2023, 21 February 2023, 30 March 2023, 3 May 2023 and 8 June 2023). After each meeting the Netherlands

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<sup>1</sup> See informal document INF.16 and report SG/ST/AC.10/C.4/2022/86, both from the forty-third session

<sup>2</sup> See informal document INF.13 (forty-third session)

and the United Kingdom, as joint leads, with the assistance of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), have revised the draft text of chapter 3.4, drafted meeting notes and prepared papers, presentations and surveys on specific topics to take forward the discussions, taking into account written comments and information on specific topics provided by the participants.

5. Furthermore, the informal working group is considering which potential hazard class or other issue to review next after work on chapter 3.4 for skin sensitisation is finalized.

6. The Sub-Committee may wish to note that the group aims to complete the work of revising the mixtures sections for skin sensitization within chapter 3.4 soon and intends to present a formal proposal on these issues for the consideration of the Sub-Committee at the December 2023 session.

## **Ongoing work**

7. The Sub-Committee is invited to note the progress of the revision of chapter 3.4 as outlined in this informal document.

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