

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**

6 July 2023

Forty-fourth session

Geneva, 10-12 July 2023

Item 3(a) of the provisional agenda

**Implementation: possible development of a list of chemicals
classified in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System**

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

**Transmitted by the experts from the United States of America and
Canada**

Introduction

1. This informal document provides an update on the work performed by the informal working group (IWG) “assessing the possible development of a list of chemicals classified in accordance with the GHS” since the forty-third session of the Sub-Committee in December 2022.

Background

2. The “United Nations GHS Global Classification List Survey” was administered by the Co-chairs of the IWG, the United States and Canada, with the assistance of the U.S.’s consultant, in October/November 2021.

3. At the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the Sub-Committee¹, the co-chairs of the IWG presented the results of the survey, as organized by competent authority lists, UN body/UN specialized agency lists, and non-governmental organization (NGO) lists.

4. Following the presentation of the preliminary analysis of global chemical classification list survey for competent authorities at the forty-second session, corrections and clarifications were identified and addressed in the spreadsheet with the raw survey results and in the preliminary analysis for the forty-third session of the Sub-Committee. It was then stated by the co-chairs on behalf of the IWG that the competent authorities analysis was now considered complete and there was no intent to make further updates or add new information unless a critical need is identified (see paragraph 6, INF.27, forty-third session).

5. Following the forty-second session of the Sub-Committee, updates were made to the spreadsheets with the raw survey results for the UN bodies/UN specialized agencies and NGOs. The preliminary analyses of global chemical classification list survey for UN bodies/UN specialized agencies and NGOs, as well as the updated spreadsheets with the raw survey results, were presented to the Sub-Committee at the forty-third session.

¹ See informal document INF.20 and report ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/84 from the forty-second session and informal documents INF. 27, INF.28, INF.29 and INF.30 and report ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/86 from the forty-third session.

Status report

6. Near the end of 2022, the co-chairs of the IWG from Canada and United States of America stepped down due to new work roles with additional responsibilities, and the global list IWG is now being co-chaired by existing members of the IWG from the United States of America and Canada. The IWG continues to receive leadership from additional members of the United States of America and Canadian delegations.

7. In January 2023, the Chemical's assessment webpage under the GHS implementation and guidance section of the UNECE website was updated to reflect the preliminary analyses and raw survey results for competent authorities, UN bodies/UN specialized agencies and NGOs that were presented to the Sub-Committee at the forty-third session. The co-chairs on behalf of the IWG consider this to address the 2023-2024 work stream item A(b) "Publicize the working group's survey analysis through UNITAR, the GHS implementation page, and/or the OECD's eChemPortal". The IWG may continue to explore sharing the survey results through the other avenues listed in Work stream item A(b).

8. Following the forty-third session of the Sub-Committee, the global list IWG has not received any comments with regards to corrections and clarifications for the preliminary analyses and spreadsheets with the raw results for the UN bodies/UN specialized agencies and NGOs. Therefore, the co-chairs on behalf of the IWG state:

We now consider the UN bodies/UN specialized agencies and NGOs analyses as complete and do not intend to make further updates or add new information unless a critical need is identified.

The co-chairs on behalf of the IWG now consider the 2023-2024 work stream item A(a) "complete any outstanding corrections" as complete.

9. The IWG did not meet between the forty-third and forty-fourth sessions, as the co-chairs were initiating work related to work stream item A(c) and work stream item B(a) from the 2023-2024 program of work².

10. As indicated in the 2023-2024 program of work under work stream item A(c) the leads of the IWG are developing an outline of a draft manuscript detailing the background information and initial findings of the "United Nations GHS Global Classification List Survey" to be circulated amongst the IWG. The leads anticipate a second manuscript will be developed detailing the more in-depth analysis to come.

11. The IWG leads have also begun work on work stream item B(a).

12. The leads are planning to schedule a meeting of the IWG prior to the forty-fifth session to discuss development of the first manuscript outlining the survey and preliminary results. The progress of work stream item B(a) will also be presented to the IWG with a discussion of developing a second manuscript to present that work as well.

Action requested from the Sub-Committee

13. The Sub-Committee is invited to note the progress of the global list IWG.

² See informal document INF.30 and report ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/86 from the forty-third session