|  |
| --- |
| **UN/SCEGHS/47/INF.29** |
| **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 26 November 2024**  **Forty-seventh session**  Geneva, 4-6 December 2024  Item 5 of the provisional agenda  **Programme of work for 2025–2026** |

Proposal for the ongoing work of the informal working group on practical classification issues

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America on behalf of the informal working group

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a proposal for the ongoing work of the Practical Classification Issues (PCI) informal working group (IWG) for the 2025-2026 biennium. Additionally, the annex of this document contains a table with the status of completed and discontinued work items from the 2023-2024 biennium.

Proposal for ongoing work

2. The PCI IWG proposes for the 2025-2026 biennium the following items:

Item 2 Consider the need for the development of additional guidance/example(s) illustrating the application of the bridging principles. This would include examples that show when bridging can and cannot be applied based on the available information on a similar tested mixture in combination with information on the ingredients of mixtures.

Item 3 Taking into account the scope of applicability of additivity and its limitations, consider whether it should be possible to apply additivity in certain cases to other health hazards, for which additivity is currently not explicitly mentioned, and if so, how to clarify this in the GHS (see rationale in informal document INF.35, thirty-second session)[[1]](#footnote-2).

Item 4 Develop and propose a scientifically sound procedure for the tiered approach for classification of mixtures in chapters 3.2 to 3.4 allowing use of the available data in the most appropriate possible way (see informal document INF.23, thirty-ninth session[[2]](#footnote-3), for proposed workstreams). A preliminary evaluation will be conducted:

(i) including an analysis of the present strategies for all health hazards and aiming at identifying when and how bridging principles are best to be considered in the classification process;

(ii) defining which requirements need to apply to data from similar mixtures to be useful for bridging purposes;

(iii) exploring by comparison with the relevant sections of chapter 1.3, to which extent improvements of the classification process for mixtures in chapters 3.2 to 3.4 are compatible with the rules in chapter 1.3. If deemed necessary, options for improvement will be identified and proposed.

Item 6 Taking into consideration that annex 8 has not been updated since 2003, the PCI will review annex 8 and discuss the best approach moving forward.  The group should consider if examples are still relevant, or if annex 8 can be deleted.  If the group decides examples are still relevant then it will either update annex 8 or prepare examples for inclusion on the GHS Sub-Committee’s “Guidance on the application of GHS criteria” webpage, following the previous approach used by the PCI for mixtures examples.

Item 7 Review of the use of human data for the classification of skin sensitizers in chapter 3.4 of the GHS (see INF.14, 43rd session)[[3]](#footnote-4).

Conclusion

3. The PCI IWG proposes these items for the next biennium and invites the Sub-Committee to consider the recommended program of work.

Annex

Status of completed and discontinued work items (2023-2024)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Description** | **Status** |
| 1 | Consider the need to include in GHS Annex 11 hazard communication associated with the hazards of flammable vapours created in the headspace (the unfilled space left above the contents in a sealed container) for solid and liquid substances or mixtures. | **Discontinued**:  The United States of America and China are leading a group of interested parties to address substances and mixtures that emit a flammable vapour or gas in use and storage. |
| 5 | Asphyxiation is a well-known hazard in the workplace and is not currently included in the GHS. Consider developing a global approach to addressing simple asphyxiants in Annex 11 of the GHS. | **Completed**:  See ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2024/18 |

1. [INF.35 (32nd session)](https://unece.org/DAM/trans/doc/2016/dgac10c4/UN-SCEGHS-32-INF35.pdf) and report of the Sub-Committee on its 32nd session ([ST/SG/AC.10/64](https://unece.org/DAM/trans/doc/2016/dgac10c4/ST-SG-AC10-C4-64e.pdf), para. 28). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [INF.23 (39th session)](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2020/dgac10c4/UN-SCEGHS-39-INF23e.pdf) and report of the Sub-Committee on its 39th session ([ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/78](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/ST-SG-AC10-C4-78e_0.pdf), para.54 (b) and annex II, item 1 (e). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. [INF.14 (43rd session)](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/UN-SCEGHS-43-INF14e.pdf) and report of the Sub-Committee on its 43rd session ([ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/86](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/ST-SG-AC10-C4-86E.pdf) para. 50 and Annex II, item 1 (d). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)