UNITED NATIONS **ST**

Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2002/8
25 April 2002

Original: ENGLISH

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
(Third session, 10-12 July 2002)

GLOBAL HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

Chapter 1.1 Intrinsic properties

Transmitted by the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA)

Introduction

Further to the informal document INF.8 tabled during the second session of 12th December 2001, EIGA wishes to formally submit a proposal on the wording of Chapter 1.1 concerning intrinsic properties.

Proposal

Replace the existing text under Chapter 1.1; paragraph 6, bullet point 2 with:

- "The hazard classification process refers principally to the hazards arising from the intrinsic properties of chemical elements and compounds, and mixtures thereof, whether natural or synthetic; however in some cases it is necessary to also take into account hazards arising from other properties, such as the physical state of the substance or mixture (e.g. pressure & temperature) or potential chemical reactions."

Justification

Chapter 1.1 under paragraph 6 sets out the agreed principles of harmonisation and states that the hazard classification process refers only to the hazard arising from the intrinsic properties of chemical elements and mixtures thereof. Although EIGA can subscribe to the principle, it should be noted that there is some measure of inconsistency between the principle adopted and the subsequent classifications. Examples include:

- Gases under pressure (Chapter 2.5.). Pressure is not an intrinsic property of gases as such. It is the way of packing; compressing, dissolving or refrigerating at low temperatures that confers a hazard. Industry is also shipping solids in molten state and liquids at high temperatures. These physical hazards cannot and have not been ignored in the proceedings.

- Substances, which in contact with water, that emit flammable gases (Chapter 2.12.). This refers to a *chemical reaction* between solid or liquid substances and water.

- Corrosive gases (to be developed): gases by themselves are not corrosive. It is the *chemical reaction* with moist air that renders them acidic or basic.

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