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**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

**REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS  
ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION  
7-9 December 2004**

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## REPORT

### ATTENDANCE

1. The Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals held its eighth session in Geneva from 7 to 9 December 2004 with Ms. Kim Headrick (Canada) as Chairperson and Ms. Anna-Liisa Sundquist (Finland) as Vice-chairperson.
2. Experts from the following countries took part in the session: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.
3. Under rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, observers from the following countries took part: Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand.
4. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme/Secretariat of the Basel Convention (UNEP/SCB), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and of the following specialized agencies were present: International Labour Office (ILO), World Health Organization/International Programme on Chemical Safety (WHO/IPCS) .
5. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Commission of the European Communities (CEC), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations took part in the discussion of items of concern to their organizations: Compressed Gas Association (CGA), Croplife International, Dangerous Goods Advisory Council (DGAC), European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA), Industrial Federation of Paints and Coats of Mercosul (IFPCM), International Association of the Soap, Detergent and Maintenance Products Industry (AISE), International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), International Technical Committee for the Prevention and Extinction of Fire (CTIF) and Soap and Detergent Association (SDA).

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/15 and -/Add.1 (Provisional agenda)

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.1 and INF1/Add.1 (Lists of documents under agenda items)

7. The Sub-Committee adopted the provisional agenda after having been informed by the secretariat that document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/18 from CTIF and related documents would be discussed under agenda item 3 (c), and by France that an informal document on Water Activated Toxicity (WAT) would be submitted in due time to be discussed under agenda item 2(b)(iv).
8. The secretariat informed the Sub-Committee that the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) was now translated into the six official languages of the United Nations, and that these texts were freely available on the GHS website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/officialtext.html>). As books, they can also be ordered at the UN Sales Section. Regarding the text of the GHS in Spanish, the secretariat explained that it has been reviewed in depth by an editing group of experts from Argentina and Spain, and warmly thanked these

two countries for their kind and efficient assistance in this matter. She also called countries having Arabic, Chinese and Russian as their language to revise their respective translations and forward their editorial remarks to the secretariat, so that these editorial amendments could be incorporated in the revised edition of the GHS.

## **UPDATING OF THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)**

### **(a) Physical hazards**

9. As a preamble, the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods briefly informed the Sub-Committee on the results of its twenty-sixth session of relevance to the work on the GHS, in particular on decisions taken on elements, such as explosives, self-reactive substances and peroxides, the new label for organic peroxides, and chemicals toxic for the aquatic environment, which could be useful for discussion in the eighth session of the Sub-Committee (see report of the twenty-sixth session of the SCE TDG ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/52).

#### ***Explosives***

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/12 (Norway)

10. There was a discussion on the relevance of using the exploding bomb symbol for division 1.4 and 1.5. Some experts explained that explosives of Division 1.4 might be dangerous when put out of their packaging, a situation which might occur during storage. For explosives of Division 1.5, they are usually stored in their transport packaging with little probability of initiation or transition from burning to detonation.

11. After discussion, it was decided that the exploding bomb pictogram would be used for Division 1.4 but not for Division 1.5. Therefore, the proposal by Norway was adopted with modifications, as indicated in Annex 1.

#### ***Unstable explosives***

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/5 (CEFIC)  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/5/Corr.1 (CEFIC)

12. Upon a proposal from the expert of Canada, the Sub-Committee discussed the relevance of using the term “very sensitive” instead of “unstable” for qualifying those explosives which, although able to violently react in specific conditions (e.g. temperature increase, etc.) are nevertheless chemically stable. Finally, document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/5, including the further amendments proposed in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/5/Corr.1, was adopted without modifications.

#### ***Explosives, self-reactive substances and organic peroxides***

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/2 (France)

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.2 (Secretariat)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.27 (France)

13. The expert from France informed the Sub-Committee of the results of the discussion held on the same issue at the twenty-sixth session of the Sub-Committee TDG. He indicated that his initial proposal to classify oxidizing substances which contained combustible organic substances had been adopted, with the modification proposed by the expert of the United States of America, i.e. that classification would be considered only when the content of combustible substances in the mixture would be above 5% .

14. A few experts pointed out that this cut-off value of 5% was rather subjective as not established on a scientific basis. The Chairperson reminded the Sub-Committee that, in similar situations, the GHS was normally using generic cut-off values as stated in para 1.3.3.2, but that if the classifier had information that the hazard of an ingredient would be evident below the generic cut-off values/concentration limits, the mixture containing that ingredient should be classified accordingly. The experts from the United States of America and France stated that the 5% value had been determined on the basis of 20 years of experience and data, and was a conservative value.

15. The new text was adopted as formulated in Annex 1.

#### ***Thermal instability***

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/19 (CEFIC)

16. The document was adopted without modification.

#### ***New label for organic peroxides***

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/3 (Norway)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.3 (Secretariat)

17. The expert from Norway explained that the new label for organic peroxides had been adopted by the Sub-Committee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods as proposed by Norway regarding the colours, but with the oxidizer symbol replaced by the flame symbol as proposed by the expert from the United States of America. However, the existing pictogram could continue to be used for transport operations up to 2011 on a transitional basis.

18. The Sub-Committee also adopted the proposal with the new symbol, and a few other conforming modifications as reflected in Annex 1.

### **(b) Health hazards**

#### ***Revision of Chapter 3.1 (Acute toxicity)***

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/16 (OECD)

19. After a discussion on the three amendments proposed by CEFIC at the seventh session (see para. 20 of ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/14), the Sub-Committee adopted document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/16 with modifications as indicated in Annex 1.

#### ***Clarification of Chapter 3.2 (Skin corrosion/irritation)***

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/23 (Sweden)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.35 (Sweden)

20. There was a general understanding that a mention in Chapter 3.2 on Skin corrosion/irritation was necessary to point out that solid substances might also become corrosive or irritant when moistened or in contact with moist skin or mucous membranes and, therefore, were covered by chapter 3.2. It was also recognized that it was not necessary to make reference to specific testing guidelines as the GHS system is test method neutral regarding the determination of health and environment hazards (see para. 1.1.2.5, (b)(i)).

21. The proposal in INF.35 to insert a new sentence after the first sentence of para 3.2.2.2 was adopted (see Annex 1).

***Revision of Chapter 3.7 (Reproductive toxicity)***

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/17 (OECD)

22. The document was adopted without modifications.

***Water Activated Toxicity (WAT)***

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.34

23. The expert from France explained the rationale of the proposal contained in INF.34 on WAT. He expressed his fear that, in the current situation, if the text of the GHS was to be frozen for the next two biennia, then there would not be any classification of WAT before long. Therefore, it was preferable to reconsider the possibility of adopting the previously rejected document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/9, which with slight modifications could cover the WAT hazard for substances in an incomplete but consistent manner. The work currently pursued on toxic gas mixtures could later give good grounds for completing the chapter on WAT with criteria for the classification of mixtures, also taking the gas evolution rate into consideration.

24. The Sub-Committee expressed its reluctance to proceed so fast without preliminary consultation, and decided to include this issue in its programme of work for the next biennium.

**(c) Environmental hazards**

***Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)***

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.10 (Finland)

25. It was noted that at least two systems of classification of ODS are currently in effect, respectively in the European Union and the United States of America. The expert from Finland advised that it was worth doing this work knowing that (1) the listed/banned chemicals would still be traded for 15 years; (2) non-Parties to the Montreal Protocol would continue to produce and trade the product listed; and (3) that there would be a need to provide a system for the classification of ODS which are not yet phased out.

26. There was a general agreement that the work on ODS should be pursued and that a first step would be to make a thorough analysis of existing systems. The expert from Japan pointed out that the necessity of including the ODS in the GHS should be clarified.

27. The Sub-Committee was also of the opinion that a cooperation with the Conference of Parties to the Montreal Protocol should be pursued and a working relationship more formally established. The ODS secretariat would be invited to participate in the work of the Sub-Committee on this issue.

28. Regarding who should carry out the work, some experts suggested that it should be given to the OECD as it is the technical focal point for environmental issues. Others preferred that the Sub-Committee would deal directly with the issue through a correspondence group which would involve the experts of the Montreal Protocol for technical and practical assistance. The expert from China expressed the opinion that the work of the Sub-Committee should be linked somehow to the Montreal Protocol, as developing countries benefit from a grace delay for implementation under the Protocol.

29. The Sub-Committee decided to continue the work on ODS during the next biennium; to undertake the drafting of a detailed review document as suggested by the expert from the United States of

America; and to involve representatives of the Montreal Protocol in the work. It was also decided that this work would be carried out under the activities of the OECD focal point.

**(d) Others**

***Conforming amendments that follow up the adoption of new elements to the GHS***

*Chapter 3.8 (Specific Target Organ Systemic Toxicity, Single Exposure)*

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/9 (OECD)  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/14 (Secretariat)

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.12 (CEFIC)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.13 (Secretariat)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.19 (Japan)

30. The Sub-Committee noted that the title of Chapter 3.8 is “Specific Target Organ Toxicity-Single Exposure” and that all the text of the chapter and related text in other parts of the GHS should be adjusted accordingly. A similar situation exists with Chapter 3.9 and should be solved in the same manner.

31. The Sub-Committee also noted that the sentence at the bottom of the table on Chapter 3.8 in Annex 1, which is systematically included in every such table of Annex 1 for chapters of Part 3, was reflecting the current situation which might evolve in the future according to the progress of the work of the Sub-Committee TDG.

32. The Sub-Committee adopted all documents under this agenda item, including INF.19 with small modifications as indicated in Annex 1.

*Chapter 3.11 (Aspiration Hazard)*

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/13 (Secretariat)

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.17 (Secretariat)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.36 (Austria)

33. The expert of Austria proposed to delete “tested” in the first line of the criteria of Hazard Category 1, in Annex 2, table A 2.29, as it could be wrongly understood that testing on human should be performed which was certainly misleading. A few experts shared the same opinion. The expert from Italy pointed out that this was a standardized sentence that was used in a number of other tables of Annex 2 in a similar manner. A number of other experts supported this position.

34. The Chairperson decided that the wording would be kept as proposed in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/13, and that the question could be raised again in a more general context for the entire Annex 2 during the next biennium.

*Overall text*

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/15 (Secretariat)  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/21 (Japan)  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/24 (Secretariat)  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/26 (Secretariat)

35. When introducing document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/21, the expert from Japan modified proposal 5 and withdrew proposal 6 from her proposal.

36. All documents were adopted including document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/21 with the modifications listed in Annex 1.

37. The Sub-Committee decided to improve the structure of the GHS text in creating a Part 4 on Environment. Consequently, Chapter 3.10 will become Chapter 4.1; and new Chapter 3.11 on Aspiration Hazard will be renumbered as Chapter 3.10.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

### **(a) Precautionary statements (PS)**

#### ***Adoption of the guidance***

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/8/Rev.1 (Germany)

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.9 (EIGA)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.15 (DGAC)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.26 (CEPIC)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.28 (USA)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.33 (Germany)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.37 (Germany)

38. The expert from Germany reported on the results of the pre-session meeting of the Correspondence Group on PS. The text of ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/8/Rev.1 has been amended on the basis of proposals in informal documents 9, 15, 20, 26 and 28, and was consolidated as draft working document INF.37.

39. The Sub-Committee adopted INF.37 as amended in accordance with INF.33 and also taking account of a few additional amendments made during the session as listed in Annex 1.

#### ***Further work on Precautionary Statements***

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.20 (WHO/IPCS)

40. In the course of the discussion, it was reaffirmed that, according to the decision of the Sub-Committee, the text of Annex 3 of the GHS was to give guidance and not to standardize PS wording in a first step, and that this text would be frozen during a certain period to test its implementation and give feedback. Standardization might occur at a later stage when experience has been gained on this new Annex 3.

41. The Sub-Committee welcomed the offer from WHO/IPCS to establish a working relationship with the Sub-Committee, and in particular with a view to giving feedback to the Sub-Committee on their use of Precautionary statements and to improving GHS, Annex 3.

42. However, the Sub-Committee recognized that it needed first to gain experience during the next biennium, so as to get a better sense of the modifications that would be necessary for improving Annex 3. In particular, the Sub-Committee would find it helpful that WHO submit a background document on experience and feedback gained. At that time, it would be easier to see what kind of cooperation mechanism could be established to work efficiently with WHO/IPCS.



**(b) Safety data sheets (SDS)**

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/1 (Australia)  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/1/Corr.1 (Australia)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.5 (Australia)

43. The document was adopted with one modification from CEFIC for replacing “manufacturers” with “manufacturers or suppliers” in A10.2.3.2.1.

**(c) Labelling**

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/25 (United States of America)  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/18 (CTIF)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.8 (CEFIC)

44. The representative of CTIF withdrew document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/18. Therefore related informal document UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.8 by CEFIC was not presented.

45. The Sub-Committee adopted document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/25 without modifications. The expert from the United States of America requested the secretariat to adjust the precautionary statements contained in the example given in this document according to the wording of the newly adopted Annex 3.

46. To further improve the structure of the GHS, the Sub-Committee decided to insert the new annex on SDS between existing Annexes 3 and 4, and to renumber the whole document accordingly.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS**

**(a) Reports from Governments and organizations**

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.6 (Canada)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.18 (Japan)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.22 (IPCS)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.23 (South Africa)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.29 (ICCA)

47. A number of countries and organizations updated the Sub-Committee on their progress in implementing the GHS in written form through informal documents which can be consulted further on the website of the Sub-Committee.

48. The representative of the European Commission announced that a comparison between the current EU labelling system and the GHS would soon be available at the following web address: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/chemicals/index.htm>

49. The representative of ILO said that ILO has started to implement national safework programmes in its Member States. These programmes deal with the sound management of safety and health. The sound management of chemicals forms an important part of national safework programmes, and infrastructures and capacity are built to enable Member States to ratify and implement the two major ILO chemical related Conventions, namely the Chemicals Convention (N°170) and the Prevention of Major Accidents Convention (N° 174). The building of infrastructures and capacity for Member States includes their being able to implement the GHS, as GHS is an integral part of the work dealing with the sound management of chemicals.

**(b) Cooperation with other international organizations**

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.11 (Basel Convention)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.14 (Secretariat)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.16 (Secretariat)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.24 (Secretariat)

***Basel Convention***

50. The representative of the Basel Convention introduced document INF.11, and announced that a mandate for cooperation with the Sub-Committee now existed, and that this mandate now needed to be made operational. He suggested that a joint working group should be set up as soon as possible.

51. The Chairperson indicated that this issue would be included in the work programme of the Sub-Committee for the next biennium and that a correspondence group would be set up for cooperation with the Basel Convention.

***UNECE Conventions***

52. The Chairperson appreciated the important contribution for raising awareness on the GHS that could be conveyed through the two UNECE Agreements and decided that further working linkages would be established with these Conventions.

***Strategic Approach for Integrated Chemicals management (SAICM)***

53. The Sub-Committee will come back to this issue at its next session of July 2005, in order to prepare a common position as a contribution to the third preparatory meeting of SAICM which will take place in autumn 2005.

***UNEP Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure (PIC) and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)***

54. The expert from Germany informed the Sub-Committee that the next meeting of the Chemical Review Committee, a technical working group of the PIC Convention, will take place in Geneva in February 2005 and that discussion will start on the possible listing of 14 more chemicals.

55. The Chairperson expressed the wish that the secretariat participate in this meeting and make an intervention to promote the GHS in this instance.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.31 (UNITAR)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.32 (UNITAR)

56. The representative of UNITAR updated on progress and various events organized at national and regional level to inform and train on the GHS and its implementation.

57. The representative of UNITAR also presented the GHS roster of experts and pointed out an insufficient number of Spanish and French speaking experts, and a total absence of experts speaking Arabic, Chinese and Russian. Experts from developing countries and countries in transition were also very few.

58. The Chairperson encouraged more experts of the Sub-Committee to include their name on the roster, in particular for those fields where participation was deemed insufficient.

## COORDINATION AND WORK PROGRAMME

### Situation of the programme of work and progress of the focal points

#### *Work of the OECD*

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/20 (OECD)

59. After a brief updating on the progress on the different elements of work under their responsibility, the representative of the OECD introduced the issue of terrestrial environmental hazard. She noted that with this second part of the study completed, the OECD had now fulfilled the mandate given by the Sub-Committee. She asked the Sub-Committee to decide whether the work on developing criteria and labelling for terrestrial environmental hazard should be continued.

60. The expert from Spain stressed that aquatic environmental hazards and terrestrial environmental hazards were two distinct issues that could not be characterized in a same class of hazard. He also explained that further work for developing criteria and labelling was a long-term issue, which needed more than a biennium to be brought to its end.

61. A number of experts declared that this issue was not a priority for their countries. Several experts indicated that they would not be able to allocate resources to pursue the work.

62. The Sub-Committee expressed its appreciation to the OECD for the work done which fully replied to the mandate given.

63. The Sub-Committee further decided that this issue would stay on its programme of work, but would not be addressed to the OECD. Interested member countries were encouraged to continue the work with the lead country, Spain, through bi- or tri-lateral arrangements, and to keep the Sub-Committee informed of their progress. At the end of the biennium, and on the basis of the results of this work, the Sub-Committee may wish to reconsider the possibility of addressing the issue to the OECD.

#### *Programme of work of the GHS Sub-Committee for 2005-2006*

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.7 (Secretariat)  
UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.39 (Sweden)

64. Document UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.7 of the secretariat was amended and completed to reflect the decisions made during the session, which had an impact on the work programme, and to include a few new programme elements suggested by some experts.

65. In particular, it was largely recognized that guidance on the interpretation of the building block approach was strongly needed, and a thought starter document would be developed for the next Sub-Committee session.

66. Similarly, it was also recognized that the Sub-Committee should discuss the possible need for a hierarchy of labelling elements for chemicals presenting multiple hazards.

67. The expert from Germany said that he would submit a document at the next session of the Sub-Committee about additional needs in criteria and tests for physical hazards in the supply and use sectors.

68. The expert from Germany also pointed out that the OECD testing scheme on corrosive substances contained the advice that inhalation toxicity should not be tested in a few defined circumstances. This

could be a problem in the application of the GHS. He offered to present an issue paper for the next session of the Sub-Committee.

69. The expert from France informed the Sub-Committee that he would organize a meeting on WAT in February 2005 in Paris, back-to-back with the next meeting of the OECD Task Force on Harmonization of Classification and Labelling. An invitation will be circulated to the members of the Correspondence Group on WAT. He also invited new members to join the Correspondence Group.

70. Based on UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.7, Sweden summarized in a table those elements of the work programme that would be worked out by OECD, with a timetable for their completion. The Sub-Committee expressed the wish that a similar rationalized approach would be followed by all focal points in the future (i.e. OECD, SCETDG, UNITAR and SC GHS-internal/Correspondence groups). The tasks assigned to the OECD for the biennium 2005-2006 are reflected in Annex 3.

71. The programme of work of the Sub-Committee was adopted as inserted in Annex 2, and proposed for further endorsement to the second session of the Committee.

### **Future publication of the GHS**

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/22 (Chairperson and Secretariat)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.21 (South Africa)

72. After lengthy discussions, there was a general feeling that it was necessary to have a revised edition of the GHS document at the end of this biennium 2003-2004. For the future, it was decided that a pragmatic approach would be followed and that the Sub-Committee would reconsider whether a revised edition or only a consolidated list of amendments would be issued. In all cases, adopted amendments and guidance materials should be presented in a workable and user-friendly manner.

73. The expert from South Africa pointed out the difficulty for national regulatory authorities to put in practice the GHS as the nature of the text was varied. She suggested that the regulatory provisions in the GHS should be re-drafted and consolidated in a separate section. There was a general feeling that this would be a difficult task. The expert from the United States of America indicated that ILO has drafted model guidelines for integrating GHS provisions into a regulatory framework for Guyana and would be ready to forward it to the Sub-Committee for information.

### **Draft Resolution 2005/.... of the Economic and Social Council**

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.38 (Secretariat)

74. The Sub-Committee adopted the draft resolution proposed by the secretariat with minor modifications (see ST/SG/AC.10/32).

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Election of officers for the biennium 2005-2006**

75. Ms. Kim Headrick, from Canada, was re-elected as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee for the next biennium. Mr. Roque Puiatti, from Brazil, was re-elected as Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Gregory Moore, from Sweden, was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

**NEXT MEETING AND DEADLINE FOR DOCUMENTS SUBMISSION**

76. The ninth meeting of the Sub-Committee will be held on 11-13 (a.m.) July 2005. The deadline for submission of official documentation is 15 April 2005. The experts were invited to submit informal documents by no later than a week in advance of the meeting. All information regarding the Sub-Committee meetings and related documentation can be found at <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/c4age.html>.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

77. The Sub-Committee adopted the report on its eighth session and annexes thereto on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

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## Annex 1

### Updating of the GHS: Adopted texts

**Document:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/12 adopted, with some modifications, as follows:

#### Chapter 2.1

- 2.1.3 Table 2.1.2, for Division 1.5, replace "Warning" with "Danger" in the second row and "May explode in fire" with "May mass explode in fire" in the third row;

#### Annex 1

In the table for Explosives:

- For Division 1.4: replace "1.4\*" with:



- For Division 1.5, replace "1.5\*" with "1.5", "Warning" with "Danger" and "May explode in fire" with "May mass explode in fire".
- For Division 1.6, replace "1.6\*" with "1.6".
- Delete the shaded explanatory text under the columns for Divisions 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6;

#### Annex 2

- A2.1 - For Division 1.4, replace "1.4" with:



- For Division 1.5: Replace "Warning" with "Danger" and "May explode in fire" with "May mass explode in fire".

**Document:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/5 (Revised text for Chapter 2.1 Explosives) as amended by ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/5/Corr.1, adopted without additional modifications.

**Document:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/2 adopted, as amended by UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.27 as follows:

- 2.8.2.1 (b) Amend to read as follows:

- "(b) They are oxidizing liquids or solids, according to the GHS criteria of Chapters 2.13 or 2.14, except that mixtures of oxidizing substances which contain 5% or more of combustible organic substances shall be classified as self-reactive substances according to the procedure defined in NOTE 1;"

Amend Note 1 to read as follows:

*"NOTE 1: Mixtures of oxidizing substances, meeting the criteria for classification as oxidizing substances, which contain 5.0% or more of combustible organic substances and which do not meet the criteria mentioned in (a), (c), (d) or (e) above, shall be subjected to the self-reactive substance*

*classification procedure;*

*A mixture showing the properties of a self-reactive substance type B to F shall be classified as a self-reactive substance."*

**Document:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/19 (amendments to chapters 2.8 and 2.15) adopted without modifications.

**Document:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/3 adopted, with some modifications, as follows:

### Annex 1

In the tables for Self-reactive substances (page 237 in the English text) and organic peroxides (page 242 in the English text):

Replace:



with:



In the table for Organic peroxides:

Replace



with



and



with



Amend note (2) to read as follows:

"(2) UN Model Regulations pictogram colours:

Organic peroxide pictogram: Symbol (flame): black or white; Background: upper half: red, lower half: yellow; Figure '5.2' in the bottom corner: black;  
Explosives pictogram: Symbol (exploding bomb): black; Background: orange".

Add a new note (3) to read:

"(3) The label conforming to the colouring scheme in the table for oxidizing liquids may be used until 1 January 2011."

***Consequential amendments***

**Chapter 2.15**

2.15.3 In table 2.15.1, replace "flame over circle" with "flame" (three times).

**Annex 2**

A2.15

Replace  
(3 times)



with



**Document:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/16 adopted, with the following modifications:

Table 3.1.1 Add the following new amendment:

"In the title of the table, replace: "and (approximate) LD<sub>50</sub>/LC<sub>50</sub>" with "acute toxicity estimates (ATE)".

In the new note (a) to be inserted under Table 3.1.1, replace "DL<sub>50</sub>" with LD<sub>50</sub>" in the first indent;

3.1.2.6.5 In the first sentence, replace "may also label" with "may also choose to label".

**Chapter 2.1**

***Consequential amendment to the adoption of document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/12 (see CRP.4)***

2.1.3 In Table 2.1.2, for Division 1.4, insert "Exploding bomb or" before "1.4 on orange background" in the first row.

**Document:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/17 (Revision of Chapter 3.7) adopted without modifications.

**Document:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/23 amended in accordance with INF.35, adopted as follows:

3.2.2.2 Insert the following new second sentence:

"Solid substances (powders) may become corrosive or irritant when moistened or in contact with moist skin or mucous membranes."

**Documents:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/13 and INF.17, (Aspiration hazard), adopted with the following additional modification:

In the table to be inserted at the end of Annex 1 of the GHS, as proposed in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/13, add the following new row at the end of the table:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Not required under the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations</b></p>
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**Documents**: INF.13 and INF.19 adopted with the following additional modification:

In paragraph 3.8.1.6 (INF.13), insert "*Specific*" before "*Target*" in first sentence.

The title of Chapter 3.8 is "Specific Target Organ Toxicity, Single Exposure" and should be written as such all through the document (Including in Annex 1, 2 and 3).

Similarly, the title of Chapter 3.9 is "Specific Target Organ Toxicity, Repeated Exposure" and should be written as such all through the document (Including in Annex 1, 2 and 3).

**Documents**: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/15 (list of draft amendments to the GHS), -2004/24 (draft corrigendum to the English version of the GHS) and -2004/26 (draft corrigendum to the French version of the GHS), adopted without modifications.

**Document**: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/21, adopted (with the exception of proposal 6) with the following modifications:

Replace the amendments under proposal 5 with the following:

#### Chapter 3.7

3.7.4 In table 3.7.2 (Label elements for reproductive toxicity), for the hazard statements of categories 1A, 1B and 2, delete "or" between the sentences in brackets and insert "state" before "route".

#### Chapter 3.8

3.8.4.1 In table 3.8.3 (Label elements for target organ systemic toxicity after single exposure), in the hazard statements for categories 1 and 2, delete "if" between the sentences in brackets.

#### Annexes 1 and 2

Specific Target organ systemic toxicity (single exposure):

In Annex 1 (Table for "Target organ systemic toxicity (single exposure)") and Annex 2 (para. A2.25), amend the text for the hazard statement to read as follows:

- For Category 1:  
"Danger  
Causes damage to organs (or state all organs affected, if known) (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)".
- For Category 2:  
"Warning  
May cause damage to organs (or state all organs affected, if known) (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)".

Specific target organ systemic toxicity (repeated exposure):

In Annex 1 (Table for "Target organ systemic toxicity (repeated exposure)") amend the text for the hazard statement to read as follows:

- For Category 1:  
"Danger  
Causes damage to organs (state all organs affected, if known) through prolonged or repeated exposure (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)".
- For Category 2:  
"Warning  
May cause damage to organs (state all organs affected, if known) through prolonged or repeated exposure (state route of exposure if it is conclusively proven that no other routes of exposure cause the hazard)".

**Document:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/1 amended in accordance with –2004/Corr.1 and INF.5, adopted with the following additional modification:

A10.2.3.2.1 Replace "Manufacturers" with "Manufacturers or suppliers".

**Document:** ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/8/Rev.1, amended in accordance with INF.37 (as modified by INF.33), adopted, with the following additional modifications:

A3.5 Add the following sentence at the end of the second paragraph:

"Anything in italics that starts with "- if" is intended to be an explanatory note for the application of the Precautionary Statements and is not intended to appear on the label."

In the third paragraph, and in all the tables/matrices, replace "manufacturer" with "manufacturer or supplier".

**Document:** UN/SCEGHS/8/INF.38

In para (a), delete the end of the sentence from “ by the 2008...” to “as possible”;

In the para. starting with “Aware that effective implementation...”, third line, insert “and other affected parties” after “industry”;

The first sentence of operative paragraph 4 should read: “Invites Governments who have not yet done so...”. Replace the end of the sentence after “Globally Harmonized System,” with “as recommended in the WSSD Plan of Implementation;”.

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## **Annex 2**

### **Programme of work of the Sub-Committee for the biennium 2005-2006**

#### **I. Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:**

##### ***(a) Work on Health Hazards***

- (i) Pursue work on classification criteria for substances which, in contact with water, release toxic/corrosive gases;
- (ii) Continue the work on Toxic Gas Mixtures (TGM) (in cooperation with OECD);
- (iii) Examine the issue of sensitization/induction/elicitation and propose amendments to the criteria as appropriate (in cooperation with OECD);
- (iv) Continue to examine the available information concerning strong versus weak sensitizers and, if appropriate, propose revisions to the classification criteria for respiratory and/or dermal sensitization (in cooperation with OECD);
- (v) Pursue work on carcinogenicity potency estimation (in cooperation with OECD);
- (vi) Pursue work on developing guidance on the importance of different factors concerning criteria for carcinogenicity (in cooperation with OECD);
- (vii) Pursue work on amending the classification criteria for “toxic to reproduction” to develop guidance on appropriate parameters on relative potency of a chemical (in cooperation with OECD);

##### ***(b) Work on Environmental Hazards***

- (i) Pursue work to further improve the classification scheme on chronic aquatic toxicity hazards (in cooperation with OECD);
- (ii) Continue to develop criteria for the classification and labelling of environmental terrestrial hazard;
- (iii) Examine possibilities to develop classification criteria for Ozone Depleting Substances in cooperation with the Conference of Parties to the Montreal Protocol (in cooperation with the OECD);
- (iv) Complete work on validation of the transformation/dissolution protocol for metals (in cooperation with OECD);

##### ***(c) Work on Hazard Communication issues***

- (i) Develop guidance on the interpretation of the building block approach;
- (ii) Discuss the need, and if appropriate develop a proposal, for a hierarchy of labelling elements for chemicals presenting multiple hazards.

#### **II. GHS implementation**

- (a) Initiate activities to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS in Member Countries;
  - (b) Cooperate with the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for matters of common concerns;
  - (c) Cooperate with intergovernmental bodies responsible for the administration of international agreements and conventions dealing with chemicals management issues, in order to work out ways to give effect to the GHS through such instruments;
  - (d) Review reports on training and capacity-building activities;
  - (e) Provide assistance to United Nations programmes and specialized agencies involved in training and capacity-building activities, such as UNITAR, ILO, and WHO/IPCS through the development of guidance materials, advice with respect to their training programmes and identification of available expertise and resources;
  - (f) Explore working relationship with WHO/IPCS to assist implementation of the GHS in relevant activities/instruments among global health partners.
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**Annex 3****Work plan for the OECD Task Force on Harmonization of Classification and Labelling:  
activities for the biennium 2005-2006**

Work activity	Mandate	Timeframe		Deliverables	Sub-activities <sup>1</sup>
		Start	Complete		
<i>Toxic Gas Mixtures</i>	<sup>2</sup>	2004 (ongoing)	End 2006	See in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/4/14	
Sensitization/induction/ elicitation	+	2003	2006	Examine issue and propose amendments to criteria as appropriate	
Sensitizers/strong vs. weak		2003	End 2006	- Scientific issue paper <sup>3</sup>	
Cancer/potency	+	2003	End 2006	- Scientific issue paper <sup>3</sup>	
Cancer/factors	+	2003	End 2006	- Proposal for guidance	
Reproduction/potency	+	2003	December 2005	- Scientific issue paper <sup>3</sup>	
Chronic aquatic	+	2003	End 2006	- Scientific issue paper <sup>3</sup>	
Transformation/ Dissolution	+	Before 2003	End 2006	- Reliability (phase I) <sup>4</sup> - Relevance (phase II)	
Ozone Depleting Substances	+	2004		Develop a detailed comparison of classification systems	

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<sup>1</sup> *To be specified later.*

<sup>2</sup> *Reference and source of document identified or annexed.*

<sup>3</sup> *Expected to be completed in 2005.*

<sup>4</sup> *Report to Sub-Committee, December 2005.*