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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 TWELFTH SESSION  
(Geneva, 12 (p.m.) -14 December 2006)

**CONTENTS**

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
<b>ATTENDANCE</b> .....	1-6
<b>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</b> .....	7
<b>UPDATING OF THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)</b> .....	8-23
Draft amendments to the first revised edition of the GHS adopted by the Sub-Committee at its ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions .....	8
Health hazards .....	9-11
Environmental hazards .....	12-19
Miscellaneous proposals .....	20-23
<b>HAZARD COMMUNICATION ISSUES</b> .....	24-29
Guidance on the interpretation of the building block approach .....	24-27
Transport information for substances carried in bulk .....	28-29
<b>IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS</b> .....	30-44
<b>CAPACITY BUILDING</b> .....	45-46
<b>PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2007-2008</b> .....	47-50

**CONTENTS (cont'd)**

	<b><u>Paragraphs</u></b>
<b>DRAFT RESOLUTION 2007/... OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL</b> .....	51
<b>ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2007-2008</b> .....	52
<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b> .....	53-56
<b>ADOPTION OF THE REPORT</b> .....	57

**Annexes:**

- Annex 1:** Draft amendments to the first revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals ..... page 12
- Annex 2:** Programme of work of the Sub-Committee for the biennium 2007-2008..... page 16

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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 twelfth session in Geneva from 12 (p.m.) to 14 December 2006 with Ms. Kim Headrick (Canada) as Chairperson, Mr. Roque Puiatti (Brazil) and Mr. Gregory Moore (Sweden) as Vice-chairpersons.
2. Experts from the following countries took part in the session: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, 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: Cambodia, Gambia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, 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: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Office (ILO) and World Health Organization (WHO).
5. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: European Commission (EC) and 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), European Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association (AEGPL), Industrial Federation of Paints and Coats of Mercosul (IFPCM), International Association of the Soap, Detergent and Maintenance Products Industry (AISE), International Confederation of Plastics Packaging Manufacturers (ICPP), International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), Responsible Container Management Association of Southern Africa (RCMASA), Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI) and Soap and Detergent Association (SDA).

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/23 (Secretariat) Provisional agenda for the twelfth session  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/23/Add.1 (Secretariat) List of documents and annotations

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/11/INF.1 List of documents under agenda item

7. The Sub-Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat after

amending it to take account of informal documents (INF.1 to INF.24) and the withdrawal of document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/18 by Canada.

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

### **Draft amendments to the first revised edition of the GHS adopted by the Sub-Committee at its ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions**

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/19 (Secretariat)

8. The Sub-Committee reviewed the list of draft amendments to the first revised edition of the GHS prepared by the secretariat and agreed to forward it to the Committee of Experts for final endorsement with a few changes (see annex 1).

#### **Health hazards**

##### *Amendments to decision logics 3.4.1 and 3.4.2*

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/23 (Germany)

9. The Sub-Committee adopted, with some modifications, the amendments to decision logics 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 proposed by the expert from Germany (see annex 1).

##### *Toxic gas mixtures*

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/25 (USA on behalf of the correspondence group)

10. The proposal for the amendment of the cut-off values/concentration limits for Category 4 Acute inhalation toxicity of gases and subsequent consequential amendments were adopted (see annex 1).

##### *Strong versus weak sensitizers*

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.16 (OECD)

11. The Sub-Committee took note of the decision of the OECD expert group to restart the work on the development of a proposal for classification of strong versus weak sensitizers and decided to keep this item on its programme of work for the biennium 2007-2008 (see annex 2).

#### **Environmental hazards**

##### *Classification criteria for the terrestrial environment*

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.5 (Spain)

12. The expert from Spain presented the result of the work of the group on the development

of criteria for the terrestrial environment during the current biennium. He said that the group felt that the proposal was now ready to be discussed at the OECD level and requested that this item be included in the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for the biennium 2007-2008.

13. While recognizing the work done by the group, several delegations were of the opinion that the work should not be sent to the OECD for the time being. They considered that the development of criteria for terrestrial environmental hazards was not a priority at this point in time and that, during the next biennium and as far as environmental hazards were concerned, the Sub-Committee should focus on the implementation of chronic aquatic hazards criteria.

14. Others on the contrary felt that the work should start as soon as possible since it was unlikely that it could be finalized in only one biennium. They pointed out that the discontinuation of the work at this point would entail a delay of several years before a proposal could be ready to be submitted to the Sub-Committee for adoption.

15. The Sub-Committee finally agreed to invite OECD to include the development of a classification scheme for terrestrial hazards in its programme of work for the next biennium (see annex 2).

***Chronic aquatic hazards, ozone depleting chemicals and validation of the transformation/dissolution protocol***

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.16 (OECD)

16. The representative of the OECD provided an overview of the status of the work on chronic aquatic hazards, ozone depleting chemicals and validation of the transformation/dissolution protocol at OECD level.

17. She said that she expected to submit the proposals for the classification of chronic aquatic hazards and on ozone depleting chemicals to the Sub-Committee for final approval at its thirteenth session. She encouraged members of the Sub-Committee to send their comments on the proposal on chronic aquatic hazards before the end of December 2006.

18. Regarding the work on the validation of the transformation/dissolution protocol, she said that a summary of the report on phase 1 would be submitted to the Sub-Committee at its thirteenth session and that the phase 2 report concerning the study of the relevance of the protocol would be submitted for consideration of the Sub-Committee at its thirteenth or fourteenth sessions.

19. On the evidence that the work could not be finalized during the current biennium, the Sub-Committee decided to invite OECD to keep these items on its programme of work for the biennium 2007-2008 (see annex 2).

## **Miscellaneous proposals**

### ***Revision of annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS***

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/20 and  
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/20/Add.1 (CEFIC on behalf of the correspondence group)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.4 (Secretariat)

20. The Sub-Committee acknowledged the work done by the correspondence group on the revision of annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS and decided that the work should continue during the next biennium (see annex 2).

21. However, noting the comments contained in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/20, the Sub-Committee considered that, before starting the revision of the annexes, the correspondence group should agree on their scope and contents and should clearly identify the target audiences to whom they would be addressed. The correspondence group should report to the Sub-Committee on the agreement reached on those issues before continuing the work.

### ***Corrections to cut-off values/concentration limits for some hazard classes and categories***

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/22 (Secretariat)

22. The Sub-Committee examined the discrepancies pointed out by the secretariat and agreed on the following values: “ $\geq 2.3 \leq 4.0$ ” for Category 2 skin irritants; “ $\leq 2$ ” and “ $\geq 11.5$ ” for the pH values related to serious eye damage (Category 1), and “ $\geq 25\%$ ” for Acute (1, 2 and 3) and Chronic (1, 2, 3 and 4) Categories (see annex 1). The Sub-Committee also agreed that these values should always be expressed by means of mathematical symbols in all linguistic versions of the GHS (e.g.: “mean score of  $\geq 2.3 \leq 4.0$ ” instead of “mean score between 2.3 and 4.0”).

23. The proposal to add a new column for Category 3 in table 3.8.2 as proposed by the secretariat was not adopted.

## **HAZARD COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

### **Guidance on the interpretation of the building block approach**

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/24 (France)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.10 (Canada)

24. There was general support for considering hazard classes as building blocks while the need to clarify that not all the hazards classes in the GHS had to be implemented for a given sector was also recognized.

25. Several experts were of the opinion that hazard classes were building blocks and that within a hazard class, each hazard category was a building block. In their view, this interpretation allowed some sectors to implement only those hazard categories which were relevant for their specific needs (e.g. for acute toxicity, only Categories 1, 2 and 3 are relevant for transport). Others on the contrary felt that hazard categories within a hazard class were not building blocks and expressed concern about the lack of harmonization in the application of the GHS that the previous interpretation could create within sectors.

26. No consensus could be reached on the interpretation suggested by the expert from France in sub-paragraphs c) and d) of his document.

27. After a lengthy discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed on the guidance on the interpretation on the basis of a proposal by the experts from France and Canada which was amended (see annex 1, new paragraph 1.1.3.1.5.4).

### **Transport information for substances carried in bulk**

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/21 (United Kingdom)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.17 (IMO)

28. The Sub-Committee considered the proposal to add an additional sub-section under section 14 of Annex 4 of the GHS to take into account the information requirements regarding transport of substances in bulk according to Annex II to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), as amended, and the related International Bulk Chemical Code (IBC Code).

29. The Sub-Committee adopted the proposal contained in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/21 with some additional modifications (see annex 1).

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS**

### **Reports from governments or organizations**

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.8 (European Commission)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.13 (Australia)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.19 (United States of America)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.21 (Brazil)

30. The representative of the European Commission summarized the results of the Internet public consultation on the draft Regulation introducing GHS into European Community law. She noted that 97% of the responses received were in favour of the implementation of the GHS. She also informed that, once adopted, the proposal would be submitted to the Council of the European Union and to the European Parliament for endorsement.

31. The expert from Australia indicated that the adoption of the GHS for consumer products and pesticides was still under consideration and that no final government decision had been

made on how harmonization with the GHS would be achieved. He also said that a number of codes of practice and national standards relating to workplace use of chemicals, including classification, labelling and safety data sheets were being revised according to the GHS and that an Internet consultation on the draft regulatory texts was going on.

32. The expert from the United States of America provided information on activities related to the implementation of the GHS in the four sectors identified (the publication of an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on the GHS for workplace chemicals, the ongoing evaluation of possible applications of GHS for pesticides, the Consumer Product Safety Commission staff assessment of GHS implementation issues and the update of regulations for transport of dangerous goods).

33. The expert from Brazil said that a draft presidential decree intended to formalize the working group on GHS and develop the national strategies for GHS implementation would be issued soon. He also provided some information about workshops, training and other activities related to GHS implementation in Brazil which were held during the second half of 2006.

34. The observer from Nigeria drew the attention of the Sub-Committee to the fact that, due to lack of resources, observers from UNITAR pilot countries would not be able to attend the sessions of the Sub-Committee during the next biennium and urged the Sub-Committee to study ways and means to support their participation in its work. She regretted that in the absence of donors, all current ongoing projects related to the implementation of the GHS would be affected. The expert from Brazil and the observers from Cambodia, Gambia, Indonesia, Thailand and Philippines shared the concern of the observer from Nigeria and reiterated their request for financial support.

35. The expert from China provided some information about the establishment of testing facilities for chemicals as well as on awareness raising activities which were conducted in his country.

36. The expert from Argentina said that his government was working in close cooperation with stakeholders affected by GHS implementation and that two national workshops as well as a number of awareness raising activities had been conducted this year. Speaking as a member of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), he pointed out that GHS implementation was one of the priority issues identified by the group and mentioned that a regional workshop was expected to be held in Chile in April 2007.

37. The expert from New Zealand and the observers from Indonesia, Philippines, Switzerland and Thailand briefly mentioned that different pieces of GHS implementation legislation were being amended, revised or developed in their countries.

### **Cooperation with other international organizations**

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.15 (UNEP/Secretariat of the Basel Convention)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.18 (FAO)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.22 (WHO)



38. The Sub-Committee took note of the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eight meeting, held in Nairobi from 27 November to 1 December 2006, to extend the mandate of the Joint Correspondence Group between the Open-Ended Working Group and the Sub-Committee of experts on the GHS.

39. The representative of the FAO reported on the results of a questionnaire on the impact of the GHS on the labelling of agricultural pesticides. He pointed out that according to the answers received and despite the fact that GHS implementation for pesticide labelling had been initiated in eight countries of three different regions, the majority of the countries still relied on the guidance provided by FAO and WHO (in particular the “WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard”) for the toxicological classification of pesticide products.

40. He informed the Sub-Committee that, in view of the results of the questionnaire, the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management would not consider advisable at this stage to develop a pesticide labelling guideline exclusively based on the GHS and therefore recommended that, as a transitional measure, both the existing WHO classification system and the new classification based on the GHS be included in the new “FAO Guidelines on Good Labelling Practice”.

41. He finally concluded that, since the Panel had identified the necessity of a single independent international source for the classification of pesticides, there was an urgent need to harmonize the GHS toxicological classification and the WHO classification of pesticides by hazard.

42. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) noted that three WHO major instruments had been identified as being the most relevant to GHS implementation: the “WHO classification of pesticides by hazard”, the “Concise International Chemical Documents (CICADs)” and the “International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC)”.

43. She said that WHO was preparing an implementation plan for the amendment of these instruments according to the GHS and welcomed any opportunity to formalize cooperation with the Sub-Committee on issues of common concern.

### **Miscellaneous**

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.9 (IPPIC)

44. The Sub-Committee took note of the issues on implementation raised in the document from IPPIC and encouraged industry representatives to keep the Sub-Committee informed about any experience related with the implementation of the GHS.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.14 (UNITAR)

45. The representative of UNITAR presented the GHS capacity building activities undertaken over the last six months.

46. Noting that there remains significant demand for capacity building support from developing countries and countries with economies in transition (as reflected in the preliminary results of the questionnaire on preparation for GHS implementation where 46 countries out of 49 had requested capacity building support from UNITAR) and taking into account that current contracts with donors will end in 2007, she urged countries and organizations to consider ways and means of mobilizing resources to ensure sustainable funding for UNITAR's capacity building activities for the next biennium.

#### **PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2007-2008**

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.2 (CTIF)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.11 (AEGPL)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.3 (Germany)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.6 (European Commission)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.7 (European Commission)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.12 (CEFIC)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.20 (CEFIC)  
UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.23 (Secretariat)

47. With regard to the proposal for a revised system of pictograms as contained in document UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.2, there was some support for having the symbol in white on a dark background. Concerning the guiding principles for the assignment of symbols for pictograms for gases, the Sub-Committee concurred with the Sub-Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods that the proposed system would require too much information on labels making them difficult to interpret and use and did not agree to include this item in the programme of work for the next biennium.

48. After consideration of the various proposals, the Sub-Committee adopted its programme of work for the biennium 2007-2008 on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat (document UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.23) with some additional changes (see annex 2).

49. The experts from Germany, France and the United Kingdom and the representative from CEFIC volunteered to lead the work on some of the items of the programme of work reproduced in annex 2, as follows:

- Germany: item 2 (a) (i) (in accordance with the terms of reference reproduced in UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.3, slightly amended), and item 2 (a) (ii);
- France: item 2 (b) (i);
- United Kingdom: item 2 (d) (i);
- CEFIC: item 2 (d) (ii).

50. Experts wishing to be involved in the work of any of the groups should inform the appropriate leading expert before 26 January 2007.

#### **DRAFT RESOLUTION 2007/... OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.24 (Secretariat)

51. The Sub-Committee adopted Part B of a draft resolution prepared by the secretariat for approval by the Committee of Experts and submission to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its 2007 substantive session. The final draft resolution, as adopted by the Committee, is reproduced as annex 4 to document ST/SG/AC.10/34.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2007-2008**

52. The Sub-Committee re-elected Ms. Kim Headrick (Canada) as Chairperson and Mr. Roque Puiatti (Brazil) and Mr. Gregory Moore (Sweden) as vice-chairpersons for the biennium 2007-2008.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

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

53. The Sub-Committee agreed that a new revised edition of the GHS, which would include all the amendments adopted by the Sub-Committee during the biennium 2006-2007 and which would be issued as the second revised edition of the GHS under the symbol ST/SG/AC.10/30/Rev.2 should be published in 2007.

#### **OECD Workshop on high production volume chemicals and GHS**

54. The expert from Germany informed the Sub-Committee that the OECD intended to organize a workshop on high production volume chemicals and the GHS in July 2007.

#### **Tributes**

55. The Sub-Committee, on learning that Ms. Jennifer Silk, expert from the United States of America, would be retiring soon, expressed its deep appreciation for her leadership in the development and implementation of the GHS and her contribution to the improvement of health and safety of people around the world.

56. The Sub-Committee was also informed that Mr. S. Benassai, expert from Italy and Chairman of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods during the last 9 years, Mr. Yoshio Yasowaga, expert from Japan since 1983 and Mr. W. Machin (CEFIC), would be retiring soon. The Sub-Committee expressed its appreciation for their contribution to the work on the transport of dangerous goods and on the development of the GHS over so many years and wished them a long and happy retirement.

### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

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

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## Annex 1

### Draft amendments to the first revised edition of the GHS

#### *Draft amendments to the texts adopted by the Sub-Committee of Experts at its ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions*

Text of document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/19 adopted with the following changes:

In table A3.2.1 (page 21 of the English version), under the heading “Hazard class”, insert “as appropriate” (3 times) against the entries for P101, P102 and P103.

In the tables for chronic hazard for the aquatic environment (pages 110 and 111 of the English version) replace the codes under “hazard statement” as follows:

- For “Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects”, replace “H404” with “H410”;
- For “Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects”, replace “H405” with “H411”;
- For “Harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects”, replace “H406” with “H412”; and
- For “May cause long lasting harmful effects to aquatic life”, replace “H407” with “H413”.

#### *Draft amendments to the first revised edition of the GHS adopted by the Sub-Committee of Experts at its twelfth session*

### Chapter 1.1

1.1.3.1.5 Add a new paragraph 1.1.3.1.5.4 to read as follows:

“1.1.3.1.5.4 Guidance on the interpretation of the building block approach

(a) Hazard classes are building blocks:

Within their jurisdiction and keeping in mind the goal of full harmonization as well as international conventions, competent authorities may decide which hazard classes they apply;

(b) Within a hazard class, each hazard category can be seen as a building block:

For a given hazard class, competent authorities have the possibility not to apply all categories. Nevertheless, in order to preserve consistency, some restrictions to this principle should be set, as follows:

(i) The classification criteria such as the cut-off values or concentration limits for adopted hazard categories should not be altered. However,

adjacent sub-categories (e.g. carcinogenicity Categories 1A and 1B) may be merged into one category. Nevertheless, adjacent hazard categories should not be merged if it results in renumbering the remaining hazard categories. Furthermore, where sub-categories are merged, the names or numbers of the original GHS sub-categories should be retained (e.g. Carcinogenicity Category 1 or 1A/B) to facilitate hazard communication;

- (ii) Where a competent authority adopts a hazard category, it should also adopt all the categories for higher hazard levels in that class. As a consequence, when a competent authority adopts a hazard class, it will always adopt at least the highest hazard category (Category 1), and, where more than one hazard category is adopted, these hazard categories will form an unbroken sequence.

*NOTE 1: Some hazard classes contain additional categories that can be considered on a stand alone basis, for example, Specific target organ toxicity, Category 3: transient target organ effects (Chapter 3.8) and Reproductive toxicity: Effects on or via lactation (Chapter 3.7).*

*NOTE 2: It is noted, however, that the goal of the GHS is to achieve worldwide harmonization (see 1.1.2.3). Therefore, while differences between sectors may persist, the use of an identical set of categories at a worldwide level within each sector should be encouraged.*

(Ref. docs.: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/24 and UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.10, as amended)

### **Chapter 3.1**

In table 3.1.1, in the column for Category 4, replace “5000” with “20000” in the entry for “Gases”;

In note “d” to table 3.1.1, replace “5000” with “20000”.

3.1.3 Amend table 3.1.2 as follows:

- Under “Classification category or experimentally obtained acute toxicity range estimate” replace “5000” with “20000” in the entry for gases;
- Under “Converted Acute Toxicity point estimate”, replace “3000” with “4500” in the entry for gases.

3.1.5 In decision logic 3.1.1, replace “5000 ppm” with “20000 ppm” for gas inhalation in the text box that follows “No” from Category 3.

(Ref. doc.: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/25)

### **Chapter 3.2**

3.2.2.5.4 In the English version of the GHS, in table 3.2.2, paragraph (1), replace “ $\geq 2.3 < 4.0$ ” with “ $\geq 2.3 \leq 4.0$ ” and in the French version replace “entre 2.3 et 4.0” with “ $\geq 2,3 \leq 4,0$ ”.

In the French version of the GHS, in table 3.2.2, in the paragraph for Category 3, replace “entre 1.5 et 2.3” with “ $\geq 1,5 < 2,3$ ”.

(Ref. doc.: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/22)

### **Chapter 3.3**

In the notes to figure 3.3.1 (“step 3”), replace “ $< 2$  and  $> 11.5$ ” with “ $\leq 2$  and  $\geq 11.5$ ”

3.3.3.1 (3rd sentence) In the English version of the GHS, replace “a pH of 2 or less or 11.5 or greater” with “a pH  $\leq 2$  or  $\geq 11.5$ ” and in the French version replace “pH est inférieur à 2 ou supérieur à 11.5” with “pH  $\leq 2$  ou  $\geq 11,5$ ”.

(Ref. doc.: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/22)

### **Chapter 3.4**

3.4.5 In decision logic 3.4.1, amend the text in the last but one box on the left to read as follows:

Does the mixture contain one or more ingredients classified as a respiratory sensitizer at <sup>4,5</sup>:

- $\geq 0.1\%$  w/w (solid/liquid);
- $\geq 1.0\%$  w/w (solid/liquid);

or

- $\geq 0.1\%$  v/v (gas); (see 3.4.3.3)
- $\geq 0.2\%$  v/v (gas)? (see 3.4.3.3)

In decision logic 3.4.2, amend the text in the last but one box on the left to read as follows:

Does the mixture contain one or more ingredients classified as a skin sensitizer at <sup>4,5</sup>:

- $\geq 0.1\%$ ;
- $\geq 1.0\%$ ? (see 3.4.3.3)

(Ref. Doc: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/23, as amended)

## **Chapter 4.1**

In sub-sections 4.1.3.5.5.3 and 4.1.3.5.5.4 and in tables 4.1.2 and 4.1.3, replace “greater than 25 %” with “ $\geq 25\%$ ”.

(Ref. doc.: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/22)

## **Annex 2**

In table A2.17, for Category 4 (page 283 of the English version of the GHS) replace “5000” with “20000”.

In table A2.18 (page 285 of the English version of the GHS), replace “ $\geq 2.3 < 4.0$ ” with “ $\geq 2.3 \leq 4.0$ ”.

In table A2.19 (page 287 of the English version of the GHS), replace “ $< 2$  and  $> 11.5$ ” with “ $\leq 2$  and  $\geq 11.5$ ”

In tables A2.28 (a) and (b) (pages 299 to 303 of the English version of the GHS), replace “ $> 25\%$ ” with “ $\geq 25\%$ ”

(Ref. doc.: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/22)

## **Annex 4**

A4.3.14        Insert a new sub-section A4.3.14.7 to read as follows:

**“A4.3.14.7    *Transport in bulk according to Annex II of MARPOL 73/78<sup>9</sup> and the IBC Code<sup>10</sup>*”**

This sub-section only applies when cargoes are intended to be carried in bulk according to the following IMO instruments: Annex II of MARPOL 73/78 and the IBC Code.

Provide the product name (if name is different to that given in A4.3.1.1) as required by the shipment document and in accordance with the name used in the lists of product names given in chapters 17 or 18 of the IBC Code or the latest edition of the IMO’s MEPC.2/Circular. Indicate ship type required and pollution category.”.

**Consequential amendment:** Current footnotes “9”, “10” and “11” become “11”, “12” and “13” respectively.

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<sup>9</sup> *MARPOL 73/78 means the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended.*

<sup>10</sup> *IBC Code means the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (International Bulk Chemical Code).*

## Annex 2

### Programme of work of the Sub-Committee for the biennium 2007-2008

1. Continue activities to determine when guidance may be needed on the application of the GHS (e.g. to pursue a harmonized approach to the classification of petroleum substances).
2. Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:
  - (a) Work on physical hazards:
    - (i) Develop a proposal for the classification and labelling of chemically unstable gases including a test method intended to evaluate chemical instability of gases or gas mixtures (in cooperation with the Sub-committee of experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods);
    - (ii) Consider possible solutions to address the classification and labelling of substances having explosive properties and desensitized explosives (in cooperation with the Sub-committee of experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods);
  - (b) Work on health hazards:
    - (i) Pursue work on classification criteria for substances which, in contact with water, release toxic/corrosive gases;
    - (ii) 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);
  - (c) Work on environmental hazards:
    - (i) Complete the work on the improvement of the classification criteria to accommodate chronic toxicity to aquatic organisms (in cooperation with OECD);
    - (ii) Pursue the work on the development of criteria for the classification and labelling of substances hazardous for the terrestrial environment (in cooperation with OECD);
    - (iii) Complete the work on the development of classification and labelling criteria for ozone depleting substances and mixtures in cooperation with the



Conference of Parties to the Montreal Protocol (in cooperation with the OECD);

(iv) Complete the work on validation of the transformation/dissolution protocol (in cooperation with OECD);

(d) Work on hazard communication issues

(i) Pursue work to further improve annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS, including consideration of the development of combined hazard statements and combined precautionary statements, and proposals to eliminate current redundancies in some precautionary statements;

(ii) Pursue work on guidance for the labelling of very small packagings;

### 3. GHS implementation

(a) Continue the activities to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS;

(b) Continue the cooperation with the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for matters of common concerns;

(c) Strengthen and increase cooperation with United Nations programmes, specialized agencies, regional, governmental and intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations responsible for the administration of international agreements and conventions dealing with the management of chemicals so as 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, FAO and WHO/IPCS through the development of guidance materials, advice with respect to their training programmes and identification of available expertise and resources;

(f) Continue to explore working relationship with WHO/IPCS to assist implementation of the GHS in relevant activities/instruments among global health partners.

**Work plan for the OECD Task Force on Harmonization of Classification and Labelling:  
activities for the biennium 2007-2008**

Work activity	Mandate	Timeframe		Deliverables
		Start	Complete	
Strong <i>versus</i> weak sensitizers	See note 1	2003	End 2007	Proposal, if appropriate
Chronic aquatic toxicity	See note 1	2003	End 2007	Proposal
Terrestrial environmental hazards	See note 2	2003	After 2008	Progress report at the end of the biennium
Transformation/ Dissolution Protocol	See note 1	Before 2003	End 2007	Validation summary reports (phase 1 and 2)
Ozone depleting substances and mixtures	See note 3	2004	End 2007	Proposal

**Note 1:** See Annex 2 to the report of the Sub-Committee of Experts on its fourth session (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/8);

**Note 2:** Mandate given by the Sub-Committee of Experts at its twelfth session regarding substances hazardous to the terrestrial environment:

- (a) To review existing systems (including those in place for pesticides in some countries) and evaluate the potential benefits of harmonizing classification;
- (b) To consider hazard communication needs, options and alternatives for coverage of terrestrial hazards in the various sectors;
- (c) To examine possibilities for the development of a generic scheme for the classification of substances as hazardous for the terrestrial environment under the GHS, taking into account the issues and options identified in previous documents, in particular, ENV/JM/HCL(2004)3 REV and UN/SCEGHS/12/INF.5, as well as other alternatives that may be presented to the expert group;
- (d) To identify additional scientific issues that should be further investigated and to formulate specific questions for getting information on relevant gaps. The expert group may also identify relevant scientific bodies that could cooperate in addressing these specific questions.

Discussion on numeric criteria and classification of mixtures will be postponed for the future.

**Note 3:** See paras. 25-29 of the report of the Sub-Committee on its eighth session (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/16).

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