



**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****Nineteenth session**

Geneva, 30 June-2 July 2010

Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the GHS - Cooperation with other bodies
or international organizations****Consideration of issues relevant to Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)
by the International Maritime Organization Sub-Committee
on Bulk Liquids and Gases at its fourteenth session (BLG 14)****Transmitted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)¹****Introduction**

1. The Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (BLG Sub-Committee) held its fourteenth session, from 8 to 12 February 2010 and, amongst others, considered issues relevant to Safety Data Sheets (SDS) in relation to MARPOL Annex I oil cargoes and marine fuel oils. Details of this consideration are contained in the following paragraphs.

2. The Sub-Committee reviewed documents BLG 14/16 and BLG 14/16/2, prepared by the Secretariat, which provided respectively feedback from the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Sub-Committee) in relation to the requirements established for Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for MARPOL Annex I Cargoes and Marine Fuel Oils, as adopted by resolution MSC.286(86). The former document dealt essentially with the communication to the BLG Sub-Committee put forward by the GHS Sub-Committee whilst the latter one then reflected on further discussions on this issue

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2009-2010 approved by the Committee at its fourth session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/32, Annex II and ST/SG/AC.10/36, para.14).

which had taken place within the GHS Sub-Committee subsequent to receiving the initial document input.

3. The Sub-Committee noted that the GHS Sub-Committee had observed that there are some differences between the IMO specifications for the SDS and those of the standard GHS format and that some GHS delegations, whilst recognizing that specific sectors may need to include in the SDS additional information elements relevant to their area had expressed some concerns about the development of sector specific divergences from the minimum information required by GHS.

4. The Sub-Committee further noted, however, that the GHS Sub-Committee, reiterating its view that a harmonized SDS which meets the needs of all sectors should be the goal, had indicated that it was open to explore how specific requirements could be taken into account within the framework of the harmonized GHS SDS. In this context, it was also noted that there had been a proposal that a joint BLG/GHS correspondence group might be established to address this issue and that the GHS Sub-Committee would consider this option further on the basis of the outcome of BLG 14 deliberations on this matter.

5. Following a discussion on this issue, the Sub-Committee concluded that since the consideration of the SDS requirements for Annex I Cargoes and Marine Fuel Oils had been finalized and, subsequently, deleted from its work programme and agenda by the Maritime Safety Committee, it was now not possible to consider the matter further and it was requested therefore that this should be communicated to the GHS Sub-Committee accordingly.

Action requested of the GHS Sub-Committee

6. The GHS Sub-Committee is invited to consider the information provided and to take action, as appropriate, with respect to considering the inclusion of the special needs of the maritime industry, as noted in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2009/4, in its criteria on the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals.
