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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

Twenty-first session

Geneva, 27–29 June 2011 Item 2 (e) of the provisional agenda

Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) – Miscellaneous proposals

Correction to the GHS

Transmitted by the expert from Germany on behalf of the informal correspondence group on the editorial revision of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3¹

Proposal

In 1.3.2.4.6, in the fourth sentence delete "testing schemes starting with", as follows:

"1.3.2.4.6 Animal welfare

The welfare of experimental animals is a concern. This ethical concern includes not only the alleviation of stress and suffering but also, in some countries, the use and consumption of test animals. Where possible and appropriate, tests and experiments that do not require the use of live animals are preferred to those using sentient live experimental animals. To that end, for certain hazards (skin irritation/corrosion and eye irritation/serious eye damage) testing schemes starting with-non-animal observations/measurements are included as part of the classification system. For other hazards, such as acute toxicity, alternative animal tests, using fewer animals or causing less suffering are internationally accepted and should be preferred to the conventional LD50 test."

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2011-2012 approved by the Committee at its fifth session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/40, annex II and ST/SG/AC.10/38, para.16).



Justification

The GHS does not make testing requirements for health hazards. The recommendations on testing strategy will be deleted in GHS chapters 3.2 and 3.3. As a consequence, GHS 1.3.2.4.6 needs amendment as it also refers to testing strategy. The proposed deletion is not dependent on putative future changes in GHS chapters 3.2 and 3.3 and can be established independently.