



**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-third session**

Geneva, 4–6 July 2012

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the GHS:
implementation issues****Proposal to establish guiding principles for developing a
global list of classified chemicals****Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America on behalf
of the informal correspondence group on practical classification issues¹****Purpose**

1. By way of this document, the informal correspondence working group entrusted with evaluating the possible development of a global list of classified chemicals is proposing to establish a set of guiding principles. These guiding principles will facilitate future discussions, establish the criteria for reviewing existing lists of chemicals, and will serve as the guidelines for evaluating possible options for the creation of a global list of classified chemicals.
2. As more and more countries begin implementing the GHS through their regulatory processes, ensuring that classifications are harmonized is necessary in order to maintain consistent information regarding hazardous chemicals across borders.
3. In addition to establishing a foundation for future work, these guiding principles will provide for the open sharing of data. Ensuring that all classifiers have access to the same data sources will reduce inconsistency and promote reliable classification of hazardous chemicals.

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.10/38, para. 16 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/40, Annex II, item 3 (a) (ii)).

Background

4. During the twentieth session of the Sub-Committee, this working group was entrusted with evaluating the possible development of a global list of chemicals classified according to the GHS. (Mandate/Terms of Reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2010/20 (paragraph 12).
5. A list of guiding principles was submitted in an informal document during the twenty-second session of the Sub-Committee (INF.31).
6. The working group convened in the plenary to discuss a number of issues related to the development of a global list of classified chemicals. Participants reached consensus on a set of principles, which are set out below.

Guiding principles

7. This document and the recommendations herein are put before the Sub-Committee for consideration and approval.
 8. Proposed guiding principles:
 - (a) The process for developing and maintaining a global list must be clear and transparent, follow the principles of the GHS, and include opportunities for stakeholders to provide input electronically as well as a mechanisms for expert review and conflict resolution.
 - (b) All GHS hazard categories and classes must be included in the global list of classified chemicals.
 - (c) Only substances will be included on the global list of classified chemicals;
 - (d) All substances must be accurately identifiable and described for each entry (e.g. including Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Numbers (CAS numbers) and relevant impurities).
 - (e) The data sets forming the basis for the chemical classification must be referenced with the classification. The source of the information must also be electronic, readily available, and publicly accessible.
 - (f) The global list of chemical classifications will be non-binding. As with the GHS itself, countries will have the option to make the list binding if they adopt it through their legislative and/or regulatory process.
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