

UN/SCEGHS/5/INF.19

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally
Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals**
(Fifth session, 7-9 July 2003,
agenda item 3)

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

**Draft report of the 12th Meeting of the
OECD Task Force on Harmonisation of Classification and Labelling,
held in Helsinki from 23-25 June 2003.**

Submitted by the OECD Secretariat

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON HARMONISATION OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING

This Draft Report has not yet been approved by the Task Force on HCL and, consequently, is only intended for personal use of the UN SCE GHS

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The Chair, Ms Anna-Liisa Sundquist from Finland, opened the Meeting and welcomed the Task Force members. She invited all participants to introduce themselves. The list of participants is added to the report as Annex 1.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of the Agenda

2. At the request of a delegate from Spain who could only attend the last part of the Meeting, the most recent version of the Draft Agenda [ENV/JM/HCL/A(2003)1/REV3] was revised to move all items related to the environment on the last day. The adopted Agenda was handed out at the Meeting as REV4 and is added to this report as Annex 2 together with a list of all meeting documents. To facilitate consensus-building, some items were repeated in the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Confirmation of approval of the report of the 11th Meeting of the Task Force-HCL

3. The revised version of the report, dated 13th September 2002, was approved without any further changes.

AGENDA ITEM 4: General information by the Secretariat

4. The Secretariat introduced shortly the documents on general issues. It pointed out that 4 staff months and 2 staff months support had been allocated to the work on GHS and added that the work plan for HCL had been adopted by the Joint Meeting with the proviso that changes could result from the Task Force Meeting. It observed that the re-establishment of the International Group of Experts on the Explosion Risks of Unstable Substances (IGUS) as ad hoc Expert Group of the Test Guidelines Programme had been approved in OECD and that the report of the UN Sub-Committee of experts on GHS (UN SCE GHS) would be considered under items related to new work.

5. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that it had proposed to the Joint Meeting to draft a Council Decision on GHS, whereby member countries would commit to implement the GHS, rather than “encourage” its implementation as stated in IFCS or at the Johannesburg Summit. A date would be mentioned for starting the implementation of the GHS but it would be recognized that by that date the full GHS would not have to be implemented yet.

6. Lastly, the Meeting was informed that Herman Koëter, due to additional responsibility, would no longer be able to manage the HCL programme and that Laurence Musset would take over this work. Herman Koëter was warmly thanked for the tremendous amount of work he had accomplished since the beginning of the discussions on the GHS. All expressed great regret and stressed how helpful he had been for the Task Force.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Progress Report of the Programme on Harmonisation of Classification and labelling

7. The Secretariat introduced paragraphs 24-36 of document ENV/JM(2003)11 on Highlights and Progress of the Environment, Health and Safety Programme. Considering the 6% budget cut, a number of activities had to be slowed down. The Secretariat was grateful for the work done by Canada on the Aspiration Hazard Class and on the Water-Activated Toxicity and Corrosivity Hazard Class, and by UK on the Respiratory Tract Irritation/Corrosion Hazard Class. Unfortunately, due to budget restraints, not much work could be done on Narcotic Effect. The Validation Management Group for the Transformation/Dissolution could be established despite initial difficulties to nominate a critical minimum number of experts and work has started.

8. In response to a question of the Netherlands regarding the respective responsibilities of OECD and the UN SCE GHS on the work on Labelling, the Secretariat made it clear that OECD is not the Focal Point for Hazard Communication which is under the responsibility of the UN SCE GHS. The SCE recognized however that for the endpoints for which OECD is responsible, it would be easier if OECD would also propose the Hazard Communication part.

9. The Secretariat added that if a consensus concerning a proposal related to GHS was reached by the Task Force, this proposal would be forwarded to the Joint Meeting and then to the UN SCE GHS. If non OECD countries then do not agree with the proposal, it will have to come back to the Task Force and to the Joint Meeting, together with the reasoning for suggested changes, for additional considerations.

AGENDA ITEMS 6 and 10: APPROVAL OF A HAZARD CLASS: The Aspiration Hazard Class

10. The Chair invited Kim Headrick, in her capacity of Chair of the Expert Group on Aspiration Hazards to introduce the proposal of the Expert Group presented in document ENV/JM/HCL(2003)1. Kim explained that agreement had been reached on the structure of the document, the principle of two categories, on the classification of mixtures and on dropping surface tension from the proposal. She outlined the outstanding issues: the symbol for this hazard class and the viscosity cut-off for category 1. She also mentioned the information document submitted by the US to justify the use of 20.5 mm²/s as the viscosity cut off for Aspiration toxicity.

11. Considering detergents, Sweden questioned whether the surface tension should be dropped or not. The US stated that there is no sufficient evidence to support any effect of surface tension on aspiration hazard. The UK added that surface tension would be an exclusion criterion and that the proposal was conservative in dropping this exclusion.

12. The Chair invited the Meeting to review the above mentioned document. She stressed that Category 1 would be obligatory while Category 2 would be optional. Concerning the classification criteria, it was clarified that the definition of "hydrocarbon" excludes functional groups. The Meeting decided to modify the text related to human evidence in (a) and to add a reference to expert judgment in the criteria for Category 2. It was recognized, after some discussions, that the examples of evidence were useful in (a) of Category 1.

13. Concerning the cut-off value for kinematic viscosity, the Meeting initially proposed to introduce optionality also in Category 1. However, considering the objective of harmonization, the Meeting reconsidered this issue and agreed that further efforts should be made to reach consensus on a cut-off value. Despite this awareness, the Meeting could not agree on a cut-off value for the kinematic viscosity for Category 1: 20.5 or 15 mm²/s. The US stressed that the value they proposed was based on evidence, and that 98 deaths were reported by only a small number of hospitals not taking into account mortality after 24 hours. The Meeting recognized that documentation supporting a lower cut-off was necessary in order to progress with the discussion. Germany indicated that it would try to collect and communicate

information justifying the cut-off value of 15 mm²/s. It added that without data to support this lower value, it would be extremely difficult to find a compromise.

14. Concerning the bridging principles, it was decided to replace “toxicity” by “aspiration toxicity” in (d) to keep consistency with other end points. The paragraphs referring to classification of a mixture that separates into distinct layers were slightly rephrased. The paragraph on the classification of aerosol/mist products dispensed in containers such as self-pressurized containers, triggers and pump sprayers added shortly before finalization of the document was agreed with slight modifications.

15. Whether this hazard class should be an extension of acute toxicity was discussed together with hazard communication. Considering that Aspiration was not lethal in most cases, the US could not accept the Skull and Crossbones. Moreover, it argued that the acute toxicity symbol could trigger undesirable vomiting. There was no agreement on the Exclamation Mark. Considering it was not strong enough, Canada proposed the New Health Hazard Symbol (NHHS). Responding to the US, Canada explained that the NHHS was not necessarily a chronic symbol and, therefore, could be used for this hazard as well.

16. The Meeting agreed that Aspiration Hazard was serious enough to justify a symbol and that the symbol for Category 1 and 2 should be the NHHS. After long discussions, the meeting agreed on the hazard statements for Categories 1 and 2: “May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways” and “May be harmful if swallowed and enters airways”. Several versions of document ENV/JM/HCL(2003)1 were discussed. The Meeting finally reached consensus on all aspects of aspiration hazards with the exception of the cut-off value for viscosity and under the proviso that the US could have another careful look at the Decision Logic. The agreed Step 2 proposal is attached to this Summary Record as ENV/JM/HCL(2003)1/REV4 ([Annex 3](#)).

17. The Meeting agreed that the existing Expert Group would continue the work to agree on a cut-off value. Belgium, Germany, and the UK volunteered to join the Expert Group. An effort will be made to reach consensus not later than by the end of the year.

AGENDA ITEMS 7 and 11: APPROVAL OF A HAZARD CLASS: The Water-Activated Toxicity Hazard Class (WAT)

18. The Chair invited Kim Headrick in her capacity of Chair of the Expert Group on WAT to introduce shortly document ENV/JM/HCL(2003)2. Kim noted that this issue had been on the agenda since a number of years. She added that there was no consensus on the rate of evolution and on whether this rate should be optional or obligatory.

19. The Chair proposed to consider corrosivity at a later stage and to review, paragraph by paragraph, the above mentioned document. She reminded the Meeting of the need for the evolution rate in Transport. She also added that classification would change for 28% of 67 substances included in a survey if an evolution rate of 10L/kg/min was taken into account. However, despite changes in hazard category assignments, hazard communication would remain the same.

20. After some discussions, it was agreed that the evolution rate could be considered as part of the intrinsic properties. The Meeting further agreed on an optional evolution rate without indicating any cut-off value. Consequently, most of the text of note 4 to Table 1 was deleted. The hazard statement for Category 5 was corrected to align it with the corresponding acute toxicity one. The agreed proposal is attached as [Annex 4](#).

AGENDA ITEMS 7 and 8: APPROVAL TO INCORPORATE RESPIRATORY TRACT CORROSION IN THE GHS CHAPTER ON ACUTE TOXICITY

21. Corrosivity was discussed having in mind the Respiratory Tract Irritation/Corrosion Hazard Class as well as the Water Activated Toxicity Class. Document ENV/JM/HCL(2003)4 was introduced by Richard Cary, Chair of the Expert Group on Respiratory tract Irritation/Corrosion (RTI). He explained that both Expert Groups on WAT and RTI had agreed that Classification and Labeling of substances and mixtures Corrosive to the Respiratory Tract when inhaled should be dealt with in Chapter 3.1 on Acute Toxicity.

22. Two new insertions in chapter 3.1 were proposed in the above mentioned document: one under 3.1.2.6.4 and a note to Table 3.1.3. The Meeting initially proposed to modify the text under 3.1.2.6.4 to add the word “classify” in the first sentence, and to revise the text slightly to clarify that it would be assumed to be acutely toxic by the inhalatory route as well if experimental data confirm the corrosivity to the respiratory tract. However, there was no consensus on these proposals and the Meeting agreed to keep the original text proposal, including the definition of Corrosivity to the Respiratory Tract, without brackets.

23. The text of the proposed note was agreed with the deletion of the last sentence which was not considered useful. The agreement is reflected in the proposal for revision of GHS Chapter 3.1: Acute toxicity, attached to this summary record as Annex 5.

AGENDA ITEMS 8 and 12: APPROVAL OF A HAZARD CLASS: Respiratory Tract Irritation Hazard Class

24. The Chair invited Richard Cary, in his capacity of Chair of the RTI Expert Group, to introduce Document ENV/JM/HCL(2003)3. Classification criteria and hazard communication elements had been agreed by the Expert Group but the place of this hazard class in the GHS was not decided: the document proposed either a stand-alone class in a Chapter 3.x: Respiratory Tract Irritation or inclusion in Chapter 3.8: Specific Target Organ Systemic Toxicity (TOST)- Single exposure. It was noted that the content of the two options was not exactly the same: the stand-alone proposal provided more guidance on classification criteria but used only one hazard category. When included in TOST, an additional hazard category was provided as an option in addition to the existing 2 categories.

25. To clarify the number of categories, the Secretariat explained that Category 2 in TOST should be used if the effects are more severe than mild transient effects. Category 1 is restricted to severe CMR-related hazards. BIAC suggested to combine RTI with Skin Irritation, due to the localized effect of RTI. The Secretariat reminded the Meeting that TOST include both localised and systemic effects. It added that in the case of RTI, localised target organ effect would perfectly fit in TOST.

26. The US and Canada supported the use of TOST; It was argued that RTI was not purely localized, that TOST provided graduation and that it was preferable not to have too many new stand-alone chapters. Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK questioned the visibility of RTI if it were under TOST. It was recognized that cross-references and an index could improve transparency and that an attempt should be made to re-organize TOST (after single exposure) to include Respiratory Tract Irritation in a logic and coherent way with sufficient visibility. The re-organization of TOST should facilitate addition or deletion of target organs/tissues as modules. An outline of the re-organized TOST, drafted by the Secretariat, after a break-out session of a small Drafting Group, was welcomed. It was decided that the small Drafting Group (Karola Grodzki, Henk Roelfzema, Thomas Hofer, Richard Cary, Helmut Fleig and Kailash Gupta) should further work on a proposal to be circulated to the Task Force by early September. The issues to be considered can be found in the document prepared by the Secretariat and attached in Annex 6 to this summary record. The text of option 1 should be taken into account when re-organizing TOST to include RTI. Canada advised to look at the existing introductory document.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Progress in the Development of a Harmonised Classification and Labelling Approach for Chemical Substances and Mixtures Which Cause Narcotic Effect Hazard

27. The Secretariat introduced Document ENV/JM/HCL/RD(2003)1 which provides a summary of the work done until now. Due to the fact that there was no agreement on the ad-hoc Expert Group proposal for merging the narcotic hazard in TOST for single exposure, it was decided to wait the result of the Meeting discussions on RTI and TOST before coming back to this issue. The Meeting finally agreed to include the Narcotic Effect Hazard in the same way as RTI. Work of the revitalized Expert Group should start in September.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Progress with the Validation of the Transformation/Dissolution Protocol for Metals and Metal Compounds

28. The Chair reminded the Meeting that a mandate had been given by the Task Force to the Validation Management Group (VMG) to evaluate reliability and relevance of the protocol. The Task Force may advise the VMG but it should not change the agreed validation work plan unless there are serious flaws. The Secretariat reported that the small number of experts in the VMG was considered acceptable by member countries and that experts from Industry, having the status of observers, participate in the discussions but not in decisions.

29. The two laboratories involved in the preparatory work found it particularly difficult to maintain the lower pH (5.5). In order not to delay the progress, the VMG had decided to go ahead with the first phase of the work without including the low pH value. However, this was not a final decision because the full reports of these tests were not yet available.

30. The US indicated that it has specific suggestions concerning the parameters that should be monitored in the validation work, such as alkalinity, redox and surface area. It added that monitoring of additional parameters would provide further information on variability. It was not convinced that enough chemicals were selected for the evaluation of the relevance. The Secretariat reminded the US that the current Workplan only covered the very first phase of the validation and that the relevance issue will be dealt with later. The US is also member of the VMG and, so far, all comments and suggestions have been considered. The Meeting agreed that additional suggestions should be provided in writing. Once received, these comments will be circulated to the Task Force and passed on to the VMG.

31. While supporting the validation approach, Germany and Sweden observed that testing a more complicate metal, for example chromium, would be preferred to testing an alloy at this point of time. France, Spain and Sweden questioned the possibility to include the 28 days test at pH 5.5. Spain added that the laboratories should propose the lowest possible pH between 5.5 and 6, if pH of 5.5 was technically not possible.

32. The US stated that the lowest pH used for fish tests should be selected. The Secretariat agreed that the pH issue was very important but observed that the Task Force should wait for the report of the Canadian and Belgian laboratories that did the initial work. BIAC indicated that a decision could be taken very soon. If feasible, pH 5.5 would be included; if not, the VMG would make a recommendation. Considering Document ENV/JM/HCL/RD(2003)2, the US advised to make available all reference material considered by the VMG when drafting the work plan for the first phase of the validation and to develop explanatory text to explain the process and facilitate understanding of the background of the VMG decision.

33. Jim Brydon, in his capacity of Member of the VMG, confirmed that the 2 laboratories were now drafting a joint report on the basis of which the VMG would have to decide on issues such as pH, the choice of metals/metal compounds, testing of alloys and choice of identified laboratories.

34. The Chair then summarized the discussions. The Secretariat indicated that it would invite countries to find more laboratories working under GLP and added that it could send letters to help countries finding finances to support laboratories. At the request of the US, the invitation letter will be copied to the Joint Meeting for broader distribution.

AGENDA ITEM 15: POLICY ISSUE: Overview of Historical and Current Work in OECD on Terrestrial Hazard Assessment as a basis for the Decision if Terrestrial Effect Criteria Should Be Developed for the Classification of Chemicals as “Hazardous for the Environment”

35. The Secretariat introduced Document ENV/JM(2003)19 which is an overview document of historical and current work in the area. It noted that the terrestrial hazard classification had been discussed since the very beginning but that sciences had progressed considerably. It added that data on terrestrial assessments of pesticides are now available in the US, Europe and probably elsewhere and that a considerable number of tests had been developed.

36. The UN SCE GHS had requested that two activities be started during the biennium 2003-2004: (i) an analysis of the current national approaches and/or requirements for terrestrial hazard classification and (ii) proposals of issues to be addressed to develop classification and labeling for this hazard class. The above mentioned document has been submitted to the UN SCE GHS in response to the first request.

37. The Secretariat indicated that the National Co-ordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme and the Joint Meeting agreed with option 1 in paragraph 33 of the above mentioned document and that first a number of questions need to be answered. This would only be possible after a thorough comparison of terrestrial and aquatic hazard assessments of known substances. They agreed that such a survey should be conducted. Spain offered to play a leading role and to prepare the evaluation document. The US, Canada and France volunteered to assist Spain. The UK may also participate to this work. Canada emphasized the definition of appropriate end point(s).

38. BIAC pointed out paragraph 36 of the above mentioned document which refers to the scope of the work and to the mandate which will be decided later by the UN SCE GHS. It added that priority should be given to development of Test Guidelines. It was not sure that data and experience were sufficient to develop a Classification. It questioned also the relevance of using data on pesticides for classification of industrial chemicals. In response to BIAC questions, Kim informed the Meeting that the mandate would be decided by the UN SCE GHS after discussing the evaluation document as recommended in the OECD document. Spain added that there was a lot of information available on pesticides, biocides, pharmaceuticals, metals and particular industrial chemicals and was hopeful that the evaluation would provide sufficient support for the development of a harmonised classification based on terrestrial effects.

39. Concerning the schedule, it was decided that the Secretariat would organize teleconferences, that the work should be completed in a 6 month time and that a report should be available for the UN SCE GHS in July 2004.

AGENDA ITEM 16: NEW WORK AS REQUESTED BY UN SCE GHS: Acute Toxicity

40. During the biennium 2003-2004, two activities should be completed: (i) the revision of the Classification Criteria for Acute Toxicity should be revised to take account of the experimentally obtained

acute toxicity range estimates to point estimates for the dermal and inhalation routes of exposure, (ii) the definition of the terms for dust, mist and vapour in relation to inhalation toxicity.

41. The conversion rate already exists in the GHS, but may be perceived as only applicable to mixtures. It should be clarified that the conversion also applies to substances. To this end, a proposal amending slightly Chapter 3.1 was submitted by the Secretariat during the meeting and was agreed. The Secretariat proposed that inhalation Test Guideline Experts would work on the definitions of the terms for dust, mist and vapour during the summer so that they could be circulated to the Task Force in September.

AGENDA ITEM 17: NEW WORK REQUESTED BY UN SCE GHS: Reproduction Toxicity Hazards

42. During the biennium 2003-2004, two activities should be completed: (i) the clarification of the terms “reproductive toxicity”, “developmental toxicity”, “reproductive ability and capacity”, “class” and “category”, (ii) the clarification and guidance on the criteria for the classification of mixtures in the category “effects on or via lactation”. One activity should be started: amendment of the classification criteria for toxic to reproduction to consider cut-off dose levels related to the relative potency of a chemical.

43. The Meeting decided to re-establish an ad hoc Expert Group, on the basis of the old Expert Group. Canada, the UK, Germany, Sweden, the US and BIAC agreed to participate to the Expert Group. Italy may also be interested in participating. It was clarified that experts in fertility and development should join the Expert Group. The Secretariat will chair the Expert Group meetings.

44. The Secretariat mentioned an ongoing project on harmonization of terminology in IPCS/OECD and advised to use this forum for activity (i). This activity could so be finished after summer 2003. Work on lactation may take more time but the Expert Group should try to be ready for the July 2004 UN SCE GHS Meeting. On the request of the Netherlands, it was agreed to start work on potency only next year, in anticipation of ongoing work on this issue in Europe.

AGENDA ITEM X: NEW WORK AS REQUESTED BY THE UN SCE GHS: Sensitisation Hazards

45. During the biennium 2003-2004, examination of the issue of elicitation and induction and proposition of amendments to the criteria as appropriate should be completed. During the same period, examination of the available information concerning strong vs. weak sensitizers and, if appropriate, proposition of revisions to the classification criteria for respiratory and/or dermal sensitization should start.

46. It was decided to set up an Expert Group for this activity. Belgium, Canada, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, the US and BIAC volunteered to participate. The European Commission indicated that Denmark was willing to be included in the Expert Group and Sweden indicated that probably Finland would also be interested. It was noted that scientific experts should begin the work and that regulatory experts should join at a later stage. The Expert Group would have to decide the scope of the work which would be lead by the Secretariat. The first priority would be the induction/elicitation issue.

47. A proposal on elicitation/induction should be available in March-April 2004. It was recognized that it would be probably difficult to finish the work in due time. Two documents have been distributed on this issue: (i) Report of meetings of the European Expert Working Group on Sensitisation, (ii) ECETOC Technical Report No. 87 on contact sensitization: Classification According to Potency.

AGENDA ITEM 18: NEW WORK AS REQUESTED BY THE UN SCE GHS: Carcinogenicity

48. During the biennium 2003-2004, the development of a guidance on the importance of different factors which may increase or decrease the level of concern that a chemical or mixture may pose a carcinogenic hazard in humans should be completed. The different factors are noted in subsection 3.6.5.2 of the GHS. During the same period, examination of methods for potency estimation should start.

49. It was decided to re-establish an Expert Group. Canada, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, the UK, the US and BIAC volunteered and Norway was also expected to participate. Field specialists as well as “policy” experts were needed. The Secretariat will chair this activity. On the process to start the work on carcinogenicity, reproduction toxicity and sensitization, the Meeting recommended to first define the agenda of a face to face meeting during a teleconference and then to hold the meeting, if possible back to back with other meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 19: NEW WORK AS REQUESTED BY THE UN SCE GHS: Aquatic Environmental Hazards

50. Further development of the classification scheme to accommodate chronic toxicity to aquatic organisms for assigning a chronic hazard category should be started in the biennium 2003-2004. It was recognized that this schedule is probably too optimistic.

51. The Secretariat indicated that it would appreciate if a country could take the lead for the scientific discussion. Canada, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, the US and BIAC volunteered to participate. The UK and Denmark may participate and Spain or the US may take the lead of this activity. Countries were invited to send relevant data and documents in view of the first teleconference.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Dates of the 13th Meeting of the Task Force on HCL

52. Considering dates of the Joint Meeting and of the UN SCE GHS, it was agreed that the next Task Force Meeting should be held early, late January or beginning February 2004.

53. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that it would ask to nominate participants formally for all new activities.

54. The revised Workplan, taking into account the agreements reached, is attached to this report as Annex 7.

ANNEX 1

ANNEXES 1; 3-7 are available from the Secretariat upon request.

ANNEX 2

**FINAL AGENDA OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON HARMONISATION OF
CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING (TF-HCL),
HELSINKI, 23-25 JUNE 2003**

		MONDAY 23^{r d} JUNE	
09h30	1	Opening of the Meeting , Introduction of Participants	
		The meeting will be opened by the Chair, Ms Anna Liisa Sundquist of Finland. The Chair will confirm that all meeting participants have all meeting documents. She will probably invite all participants to introduce themselves unless there are no new faces.	
09h45	2	Approval of the Draft Agenda	ENV/JM/HCL/A(2003)1/REV4
		The Agenda includes three main discussion and decision items: (a) Aspiration Hazard, (b) Respiratory Tract Irritation Hazards Issues, and (c) Water-Activated Toxicity Hazards. They will be discussed twice during the meeting in order to allow sufficient time to develop compromises where needed. In addition the Agenda covers the progress with the validation work of the Transformation/Dissolution Protocol and standard issues such as: General Information, Progress Report, and the Work Plan. The Work Plan includes all new projects as requested by the UN SCE GHS and sufficient time will be dedicated to agree on details.	
09h55	3	Confirmation of the Approval of the Report of the 11th Meeting of the Task Force-HCL	ENV/JM/HCL/M(2002)1/REV1
		The Draft Report of the 11 th TF-HCL was distributed on 10 th April 2002 with a deadline for comment of 1 st June. All comments received were considered in the revised version of the Report, dated 13 th September 2002.	
10h00	4	General Information by the Secretariat	ENV/JM(2003)12 ENV/JM(2003)22 ENV/JM/TG(2003)14/REV1 INF.1 INF.2 INF.3
		The Chair may ask the Secretariat to address a number of general issues. These include: The revised resource allocations to the HCL Programme [ENV/JM(2003)12] and proposed Schedule of Activities for the Environment, Health and Safety Programme [ENV/JM(2003)22], prepared for discussions at the 35 th Joint Meeting on 11-13 June 2003; INF.1 is an information paper prepared for the December 2002 Meeting of the UN SCE GHS and INF.2 is the report of that UN SCE GHS meeting. INF.3 is a current overview of all adopted and draft OECD Test Guidelines. The Secretariat will also inform the Meeting of a move at the Secretariat: Herman Koëter will take on additional responsibilities in the areas of human health hazard and risk assessment policies and liaisons with other international organisations and is no longer able to combine this with the management of the HCL Programme. He will introduce Ms Laurence Musset of the Secretariat who will take over the management of the HCL Programme.	

10h30	5	Progress Report of the Programme on Harmonisation of Classification and Labelling	ENV/JM(2003)11
		The Chair or the Secretariat will briefly introduce the Progress Report of the HCL Programme, as included in the Highlights and Progress of the Environment, Health and Safety Programme, [see ENV/JM(2003)11, paragraphs 24-36]. Since all work areas will also be discussed as separate Agenda items, the discussion can be very brief.	
11h00		<i>COFFEE/TEA BREAK</i>	
11h30	6a	APPROVAL OF A HAZARD CLASS: The Aspiration Hazard Class (initial discussion and consensus building)	ENV/JM/HCL(2003)1 ENV/JM/MONO(2002)23 ENV/JM(2003)11, paragraph 27 ENV/JM/HCL/RD(2003)3 INF. 8
		The proposal [ENV/JM/HCL(2003)1] represents the outcome of work of the Expert Group for the Classification of Chemical substances and Mixtures for Aspiration Toxicity Hazards. While there is consensus amongst the Group regarding most of the proposal, at the time of circulation of the draft Agenda, there were still a few issues outstanding. These included the symbol for this hazard class, the viscosity cut-off for Category 1 and some special considerations. However, the Expert Group may have been able to solve one or more of these issues before 8 th May. Document ENV/JM/MONO(2002)23 is the DRD and is provided as background document for the discussion. The initial discussion will be continued after lunch, if needed.	
12h30		<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>	
14h00	6b	APPROVAL OF A HAZARD CLASS: The Aspiration Hazard Class (CONTINUED) (initial discussion and consensus building)	ENV/JM/HCL(2003)1 ENV/JM/MONO(2002)23 ENV/JM(2003)11, paragraph 27 ENV/JM/HCL/RD(2003)3 INF. 8
14h30	7a	APPROVAL OF A HAZARD CLASS: The Water-Activated Toxicity and Corrosivity Hazard Class (initial discussion and consensus building)	ENV/JM/HCL(2003)2 ENV/JM/HCL(2003)4 ENV/JM/MONO(2003)3 ENV/JM(2003)11, paragraphs 30-32 INF. 7
		The proposal submitted [ENV/JM/HCL(2003)2] represents the outcome of work of the Expert Group for the Classification of Chemical Substances and Mixtures which in Contact with Water Emit Toxic Gases. The proposal includes cut-offs in 5 categories based on the acute inhalation toxicity of the gases. However, it is not a consensus proposal as there were two views regarding the rate of evolution. Document ENV/JM/MONO(2003)3 is the DRD and is provided as background document for the discussion. The expert group also agreed on the incorporation of corrosivity in the acute inhalation toxicity hazard class [ENV/JM/HCL(2003)4].	

15h30		<i>COFFEE/TEA BREAK</i>	
16h00	7b	APPROVAL OF A HAZARD CLASS: The Water-Activated Toxicity and Corrosivity Hazard Class (continued) <i>(initial discussion and consensus building)</i>	ENV/JM/HCL(2003)2 ENV/JM/HCL(2003)4 ENV/JM/MONO(2003)3 ENV/JM(2003)11, paragraphs 30-32 INF. 7
16h30		<i>MEETING ADJOURNS FOR THE DAY SOCIAL EVENT, SPONSORED BY THE FINNISH CHEMICAL INDUSTRY FEDERATIONS</i>	

		TUESDAY 24th JUNE	
09h30	8	APPROVAL OF A HAZARD CLASS: The Respiratory Tract Irritation/Corrosion Hazard Class <i>(initial discussion and consensus building)</i>	ENV/JM/HCL(2003)3 ENV/JM/HCL(2003)4 ENV/JM/MONO(2003)2 ENV/JM(2003)11, paragraphs 28-29
		The proposal submitted [ENV/JM/HCL(2003)3] represents the outcome of work of the Expert Group for the Classification of Chemical Substances and Mixtures which Cause Respiratory Tract Irritation. Although the Expert Group reached consensus on the classification criteria and labelling details, there was no consensus on where this hazard class should be placed in the GHS: as stand-alone hazard class or incorporated in the TOST after single exposure. Document ENV/JM/MONO(2003)2 is the DRD and is provided as background document for the discussion. The Expert Group agreed to include respiratory tract corrosivity in the acute inhalation toxicity hazard class, as is also proposed by the Expert Group on WAT [ENV/JM/HCL(2003)4].	
11h00		<i>COFFEE/TEA BREAK</i>	
11h30	9	Progress with the Development of a Harmonised Classification and Labelling Approach for Chemical Substances and Mixtures Which Cause Narcotic Effect Hazard	ENV/JM/HCL/RD(2003)1 ENV/JM(2003)11, paragraphs 33-34
		Room Document ENV/JM/HCL/RD(2003)1 provides a very brief status report of the activities that have taken place following the 11 th Task Force Meeting. Unfortunately progress has been very limited and the Meeting will be invited to consider options how to revitalise the work on this hazard. Task Force members may wish to consider nominating additional experts to the relatively small group of 8 experts from 5 member countries and BIAC.	
12h00		<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>	

13h30	10	APPROVAL OF A HAZARD CLASS: The Aspiration Hazard Class (Final Agreement)	ENV/JM/HCL(2003)1 (revised as appropriate)
		The Meeting will be requested to consider the modifications made to the proposal, based on the initial discussions and reach final consensus on the text of the Harmonised Classification and Labelling of Aspiration Hazards, or propose further work, as appropriate.	
14h30	11	APPROVAL OF A HAZARD CLASS: The Water-Activated Toxicity and Corrosivity Hazard Class (Final Agreement)	ENV/JM/HCL(2003)2 (revised as appropriate)
		The Meeting will be requested to consider the modifications made to the proposal, based on the initial discussions and reach final consensus on the text of the Harmonised Classification and Labelling of Water-Activated Toxicity and Corrosivity Hazards, or propose further work, as appropriate.	
15h30		<i>COFFEE/TEA BREAK</i>	
16h00	12	APPROVAL OF A HAZARD CLASS: The respiratory Tract Irritation/Corrosion Hazard Class (Final Agreement)	ENV/JM/HCL(2003)3 (revised as appropriate)
		The Meeting will be requested to consider the modifications made to the proposal, based on the initial discussions and reach final consensus on the text of the Harmonised Classification and Labelling of Respiratory Tract Irritation/Corrosion Hazards, or propose further work, as appropriate.	
17h00	13	NEW WORK AS REQUESTED BY THE UN SCE GHS: Acute Toxicity	ENV/JM(2003)22 INF. 2 INF. 5 INF. 6 ENV/JM/RD(2003)1
17h45		<i>MEETING ADJOURNS FOR THE DAY</i>	

		WEDNESDAY 25th JUNE	
09h00	14	Progress with the Validation of the Transformation/Dissolution Protocol for Metals and Metal Compounds	ENV/JM/HCL/RD(2003)2 ENV/JM/MONO(2001)9 ENV/JM(2003)11, paragraph 26 INF. 9
		Room Document ENV/JM/HCL/RD(2003)2 includes the plan for the first phase of the validation of the T/D protocol. Discussions of the Validation Management Group (VMG) have been difficult and although there is agreement of the VMG on the first phase of the validation, aimed at confirming the reliability of the protocol, there is still disagreement on the timing and amount of work, if any, to confirm the “relevance” of the protocol. Although this Agenda item is basically for information, the Task Force may wish to comment on the Phase 1 work plan and provide guidance to the VMG on the issue of assessing the relevance of the protocol. Document ENV/JM/MONO(2001)9 is the Transformation/Dissolution Protocol.	
09h30	15	POLICY ISSUE: Overview of Historical and Current Work in OECD on Terrestrial Hazard Assessment as a Basis for the Decision if Terrestrial Effect Criteria Should Be Developed for the Classification of Chemicals as “Hazardous for the Environment”.	ENV/JM(2003)19 ENV/JM(2000)16 ENV/JM/PEST/RD(2002)2
		Document ENV/JM(2003)19 provides an overview of historical and recent activities in OECD on terrestrial hazard assessment as requested by the UN SCE GHS for its discussion of the need to develop classification criteria and labelling elements based on terrestrial effect hazards. Terrestrial assessment approaches and regulatory needs will also be discussed by the 35 th Joint Meeting in June as a policy issue and, therefore, the document covers more than only classification. The Task Force will be invited to express its opinion on: i) the need to develop environmental hazard criteria based on terrestrial effect hazards, and -if terrestrial effect hazard criteria are deemed necessary indeed- ii) confirm that the Task Force and subsidiary expert groups would be well placed to take the lead in this activity, and, iii) agree on the priority and timing of the work involved. Documents ENV/JM(2000)16 and ENV/JM/PEST/RD(2002)2 are referred to in document ENV/JM(2003)19 and are provided as background documents.	
10h00	16	NEW WORK AS REQUESTED BY THE UN SCE GHS: Acute Toxicity	ENV/JM(2003)22 INF.2 INF. 5 INF. 6 ENV/JM/RD(2003)1

		<p>Document ENV/JM(2003)22 is the Proposed Work Plan and Schedule of Activities for the EHS Programme as proposed to the 35th Joint Meeting. It includes details of the Work Plan for new work for the HCL Programme in Part 4 on pages 10-14. INF.2 is the report of the UN SCE GHS on its 4th session in December 2002. Both documents are addressing the new work and should be complementary.</p> <p>With respect to acute toxicity the Task Force will be invited to agree on the need for an <i>ad hoc</i> Expert Group for the tasks assigned to OECD and approve the time schedule for the work, amended as appropriate.</p>	
10h30	17	<p>NEW WORK AS REQUESTED BY THE UN SCE GHS: Reproductive Toxicity Hazards</p>	<p>ENV/JM(2003)22 INF.2 INF. 5 INF. 6 ENV/JM/RD(2003)1</p>
		<p>Document ENV/JM(2003)22 is the Proposed Work Plan and Schedule of Activities for the EHS Programme as proposed to the 35th Joint Meeting. It includes details of the Work Plan for new work for the HCL Programme in Part 4 on pages 10-14. INF.2 is the report of the UN SCE GHS on its 4th session in December 2002. Both documents are addressing the new work and should be complementary.</p> <p>With respect to reproductive toxicity hazards the Task Force will be invited to agree on the re-establishment of an <i>ad hoc</i> Expert Group for the three distinguished tasks assigned to OECD, approve the time schedule for the first two activities and agree on the approach of the work. The Task Force will also be invited to consider how to approach the third task.</p>	
11h15		<i>COFFEE/TEA BREAK</i>	
11h45	18	<p>NEW WORK AS REQUESTED BY THE UN SCE GHS: Carcinogenicity</p>	<p>ENV/JM(2003)22 INF.2 INF. 5 INF. 6 ENV/JM/RD(2003)1</p>
		<p>Document ENV/JM(2003)22 is the Proposed Work Plan and Schedule of Activities for the EHS Programme as proposed to the 35th Joint Meeting. It includes details of the Work Plan for new work for the HCL Programme in Part 4 on pages 10-14. INF.2 is the report of the UN SCE GHS on its 4th session in December 2002. Both documents are addressing the new work and should be complementary.</p> <p>With respect to carcinogenicity hazards the Task Force will be invited to agree on the re-establishment of an <i>ad hoc</i> Expert Group for the two distinguished tasks assigned to OECD, approve the time schedule for the first activity and agree on the approach of work. The Task Force will also be requested to consider how to approach the second task.</p>	
12h30		<i>LUNCH BREAK</i>	

14h00	19	NEW WORK AS REQUESTED BY THE UN SCE GHS: Aquatic Environmental Hazards	ENV/JM(2003)22 INF.2 INF. 5 INF. 6 ENV/JM/RD(2003)1
		<p>Document ENV/JM(2003)22 is the Proposed Work Plan and Schedule of Activities for the EHS Programme as proposed to the 35th Joint Meeting. It includes details of the Work Plan for new work for the HCL Programme in Part 4 on pages 10-14. INF.2 is the report of the UN SCE GHS on its 4th session in December 2002. Both documents are addressing the new work and should be complementary.</p> <p>With respect to aquatic environmental hazards the Task Force will be invited to agree on the re-establishment of the (Extended) Expert Group for the substantial work assigned to OECD, approve the time schedule for the activity and provide guidance on the preferred approach of the work.</p>	
14h45	20	Dates of the 13th Meeting of the Task Force on HCL	
15h00	21	Any Other Business	
15h15	22	<i>MEETING ADJOURNS</i>	

OVERVIEW OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

ENV/JM(2000)16	A Task Force on Terrestrial Assessment at the OECD?
ENV/JM(2003)11	Highlights and Progress of the Environment, Health and Safety Programme, paragraphs 24-36
ENV/JM(2003)12	Revised Resource Allocations Due to Budget Cuts
ENV/JM(2003)19	Overview of Historical and Current Work in OECD on Terrestrial Hazard Assessment as a Basis for the Decision if Terrestrial Effect Criteria Should Be Developed for the Classification of Chemicals as “Hazardous for the Environment”
ENV/JM(2003)22	Proposed Schedules of Activities for the Environment, Health and Safety Programme
ENV/JM/HCL(2003)1	Step 2 Proposal for a Harmonised Classification System for Chemical Substances and Mixtures that Cause Aspiration Hazards
ENV/JM/HCL(2003)2	Step 2 Proposal for a Harmonised Classification System for Chemical Substances and Mixtures which in Contact with Water Release Toxic/Corrosive Gases
ENV/JM/HCL(2003)3	Step 2 Proposal for a Harmonised Classification System for Chemical Substances and Mixtures that Cause Respiratory Tract Irritation/Corrosion
ENV/JM/HCL(2003)4	Step 2 Proposal for Incorporation of the Classification and Labelling of Chemical Substances and Mixtures Which Cause Respiratory Tract Corrosion in the GHS Chapter 3.1 on Acute Toxicity
ENV/JM/HCL/M(2002)1/REV/1	Report of the 11 th Task Force Meeting
ENV/JM/HCL/RD(2003)1	Status Report on Progress with the Work on the Narcotic Effect Hazard Classification and Labelling
ENV/JM/HCL/RD(2003)2	Plan for the First Phase of the Validation of the Transformation/Dissolution Protocol
ENV/JM/HCL/RD(2003)3	Consideration against Using Surface Tension as an Indicator of Aspiration Hazard
ENV/JM/MONO(2001)9	Guidance Document on Transformation/Dissolution of Metals and Metal Compounds in Aquatic Media
ENV/JM/MONO(2002)23	Detailed Review Document on Classification Systems for Substances Which Pose an Aspiration Hazard
ENV/JM/MONO(2003)2	Detailed Review Document on Classification in OECD Member Countries of Substances and Mixtures Which Cause respiratory Tract Irritation and Corrosion

ENV/JM/MONO(2003)3 Detailed Review Document on Classification in OECD Member Countries of Substances and Mixtures Which in Contact With Water Release Toxic Gases.

ENV/JM/PEST/RD(2002)2 Hazard/Risk Assessment for Agricultural Pesticides: Report of the Survey on Terrestrial Effects Assessment.

ENV/JM/RD(2003)1 Formal Adoption of the GHS by the UN ECOSOC and the Role of OECD in the Updating and Possible Expansion of the GHS in the Future

ENV/JM/TG(2003)14/REV1 Three-Year Rolling Workplan and Schedule of Activities 2003-2005; First Year – 2003, as Agreed at 15th WNT

Meeting Information Document No.1 (INF.1) UN/SCEGHS/4/INF.17: Offer from IGUS to assist with future technical revisions of the physical hazard classes of the GHS as appropriate.

Meeting Information Document No.2 (INF.2) ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/8: Report of the Sub-Committee of Experts on its Fourth Session

Meeting Information Document No.3 (INF.3) Overview of Currently Available Test Guidelines.

Meeting Information Document No.4 (INF.4) Report of Meetings of the EC Expert Working Group on Sensitisation held on 18-19 April 2002 in Ispra Italy, and 4-6 November 2002 in Ispra, Italy

Meeting Information Document No.5 (INF.5) Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals - Report of the Committee of Experts on its First Session - (11-12 December 2002)

Meeting Information Document No.6 (INF.6) Economic and Social Council - Substantive Session of 2003, Geneva, 30 June – 25 July 2003, Item 13 (1) of the Provisional agenda: Economic and environmental questions: transport of dangerous goods - Work of the Committee of the Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Good and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals -- Report of the Secretary General

Meeting Information Document No. 7 (INF.7) BIAC: Step 2 Proposal for Substances or Mixtures which, in contact with water emit Toxic Gases ENV/JM/HCL(2003)2

Meeting Information Document No. 8(INF. 8) Justification for the use of 100 SUS as the viscosity cut off for Aspiration Toxicity

Meeting Information Document No. 9 (INF. 9) Phase 1 of the Validation of the Transformation/Dissolution Protocol, as agreed by the VMG-T/D