



**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-fourth session**

Geneva, 12 – 14 December 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/C.3/76, para. 116 and ST/SG/AC.10/38, para. 16).

Background

4. During the twentieth session of the Sub-Committee, this informal 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 for consideration and approval during the twenty-third session of the Sub-Committee (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2012/10).
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.
7. The guiding principles presented below have been updated to reflect the comments from the working group meeting held at the twenty-third session of the subcommittee (refer to INF.34).

Guiding principles

8. This document and the recommendations herein are put before the Sub-Committee for consideration and approval.
9. Proposed guiding principles:
 - (a) The development of a global list is compatible with the GHS principle of self-classification since the list will be non-binding (see sub-paragraph (f) below). The process for developing and maintaining a global list must be clear, transparent and follow the principles of the GHS. Opportunities should be provided for stakeholders, to provide input as well as mechanisms for expert review, conflict resolution and updating the list when new significant data or information become available.²
 - (b) All GHS hazard categories and classes must be included in the global list of classified chemicals.³
 - (c) Only substances, as defined by the GHS, 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), the UN numbers assigned under transport of dangerous goods regulations where assigned/applicable, 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 electronically available, and publicly accessible. The data should be derived using internationally recognized test methods and classification should be based on sound scientific principles.

² Given the vast amount of substances on the global market the global list will initially cover only a subset of prioritised substances.

³ Development of the global list needs to involve priority setting and proceeding in a stepwise fashion. While the ultimate goal is to include all GHS classes/categories an interim step may include a phased in approach. The pilot program being proposed for the next biennium will not require that substances be selected in order to have all hazard classes/categories covered.

- (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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