

Sub Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods
Seventeenth Session
Geneva 6-15 December 1999
Agenda item 6

**Joint United Nations/ILO Working Group on the Harmonisation of the
Classification Criteria for Physical Hazards**

Submitted by the Expert from Germany

Presented by the Chairman of the Working Group

Background

The Working Group last met on 15 and 16 December 1997. The report and the results achieved have been published as Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/28/add.3.

However the work was not completely finished. As §§ 27 to 34 indicate, the question of criteria for the flammability of Aerosols (dispensers) need further consideration.

General

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/1999/76 (Secretariat)

The United States Chemical Specialities Manufacturers Association (CSMA) is seeking permission to participate in this session of the Working Group. The Working Group is invited to discuss the request of CSMA.

Criteria for the Flammability of Aerosols

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/28/Add.3, §§ 27 to 34
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/1999/64 (Norway)
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/1999/68 (FEA)
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/1999/76 (Secretariat - CSMA)
Inf. 22 (FEA)
Inf. 27 (France)

The Working Group is invited to discuss the issue and to reach consensus about a proposal for the Global Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling (GHS) on the criteria to determine flammability of aerosols for the different protection purposes including transport, storage, worker and consumer protection. Major issues for discussion are:

How many hazard levels are needed?

What the lower cut-off should look like?

Are hazards levels and cut-off values to be determined by concrete values, one or more testing procedures or combination (s) of both?

Other Issues

Compressed, liquefied, refrigerated and dissolved gases

Document: -

Criteria for these hazards have not been included in the proposal of the Joint Working Group for the GHS. The Working Group deemed these criteria to be relevant for transport but saw no specific need to include them in the GHS.

Discussions on the Harmonisation of Labelling in the ILO Working Group on Harmonisation of Hazard Communication indicate, that a Harmonisation of Labelling is only envisaged for hazards which – together with criteria – will be part of the GHS.

But compressed, liquefied, refrigerated and dissolved gases are transported to and from establishments where they are handled or stored. Also in these areas they could lead to accidents or incidents with damage to workers or rescue services.

The Working Group is invited to shortly discuss whether the criteria for these types of gases are relevant in general e.g. for storage and whether they should be added to the proposal for the GHS to permit a Harmonisation of their Labelling.

Explosives

Document: -

Criteria for explosives have been included in the proposal of the Joint Working Group. However the sub divisions and compatibility groups have only been mentioned.

Within the discussions on Harmonisation of Labelling this could lead to views that only one label should represent the hazard for explosivity. Furthermore questions may arise how to label desensitised, phlegmatised and wetted explosives.

The Joint Working Group may shortly discuss these issues and consider appropriate action.

Report

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/28/Add.3

The Working Group may wish to request the secretariat to reproduce this Document with the additions made e.g. for criteria for flammability of aerosols to have an updated version of the final report and a complete proposal for the GHS.
