

# UN/SCEGHS/2/INF.3

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**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally  
Harmonized System of Classification  
and Labelling of Chemicals**

(Second session, 12-14 December 2001,  
agenda item 3)

**The secretariat reproduces below a list of corrections applying to the documents on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) transmitted by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)  
(Documents ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/20 to ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/28)**

- In the whole text of the GHS, referring to the new health hazard symbol, whenever a symbol should appear (e.g. in Part 2, annexes 2 and 3), replace the mention "new symbol" or "new health hazard symbol" with a double exclamation mark "!!"
- Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/20, replace the text of the foreword with the following one:
  1. The Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) that is described in this document is the culmination of more than a decade of work. There were many individuals involved, from a multitude of countries, international organizations, and stakeholder organizations. Their work spanned a wide range of expertise, and ultimately required extensive goodwill and the willingness to compromise, in order to achieve this system.
  2. The work began with the premise that existing systems should be harmonized in order to develop a single, globally harmonized system to address classification of chemicals, labels, and safety data sheets. This was not a totally novel concept since harmonization of classification and labelling was already largely in place for physical hazards and acute toxicity in the transport sector, based on the work of the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNCEDTG). Harmonization had not been achieved in the workplace or consumer sectors, however, and transport requirements in countries were often not harmonized with those of other sectors in that country.
  3. The international mandate that provided the impetus for completing this work was adopted in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and the work was coordinated and managed under the auspices of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) by the IOMC Co-ordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (CG/HCCS). The focal points for completing the work were the International Labour Organization (ILO); the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); and the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts for the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCETDG). It required a long-term commitment from all of these organizations that they maintained exceptionally over the years.

4. The GHS as described in this document is just the beginning of global implementation. Those involved in its development believe that the system must be dynamic, and be revised and further improved as experience is gained in implementation. While national or regional governments are considered the primary audiences for the document at this point, sufficient context and guidance is provided for those in industry who will ultimately be implementing the national requirements that are adopted. The restructured United Nations ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UN CE TDG&GHS) and its new Subcommittee for the GHS will be responsible for implementing and maintaining the GHS. The Committee and its Subcommittee will provide additional guidance as needs arise, while maintaining stability in the system to encourage its adoption. Through their auspices, this document will be revised and updated to reflect national and regional experiences in implementing requirements into national and regional laws, as well as experiences of those doing the classification and labelling.
5. The IOMC trusts that countries will adopt the GHS in the near future. Availability of information about chemicals, their hazards, and ways to protect people, will provide the foundation for national programs for the safe management of chemicals. Widespread management of chemicals in countries around the world will lead to safer conditions for the global population, while allowing the benefits of chemical use to continue. Harmonisation will also have benefits in terms of facilitating international trade, by promoting greater consistency in the national requirements for chemical hazard classification and communication that companies engaged in international trade must meet.

Chairperson of the IOMC Co-ordinating Committee (IOCC) of the IOMC

Chairperson of the IOMC Coordinating Group for the Harmonisation of Chemical Classification Systems (CG/HCCS)

October 2001

- Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/26, in Annex 3, Classification and labelling summary tables, in the table for organic peroxides, for Types B, C, D, E and F, replace the "flame symbol" with the "flame over circle symbol".

i.e.:  to read 

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