



Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2001/13
9 May 2001

ENGLISH ONLY

**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**

**(First session, 9-11 July 2001,
agenda item 6)**

**COOPERATION WITH UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AND PROGRAMMES,
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

**Seventeenth consultation of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management
of Chemicals (IOMC) Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification
Systems (Rome, 2-3 November 2000)**

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat reproduces in the annex hereto, for information of the Sub-Committee, the draft record of the seventeenth Consultations of the IOMC coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (Rome, 2-3 November 2000), as transmitted by the International Labour Office.

**INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE
SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS (IOMC)**

**ILO/CG.17/00.3
23.03.2001**

Global Harmonization of Chemical Classification and Labelling Systems

**17th Consultation of the IOMC Coordinating Group for
the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems**

Rome, 2-3 November 2000

Draft Record

Opening

1. Ms. Jennifer Silk welcomed the participants and noted the first time presence of the following experts: Mr. Craig Boljkovac (UNITAR) and Dr. Kiyotaka Oyama (JCIA). She also noted the participation at this Consultation of Mr. Gotsch (Austria) and Ms. Uta Jensen-Corte (CEFIC).

Agenda and records of previous meetings

2. The agenda was adopted after the Group agreed to discuss Item 5 on the IFCS III before Item 4 on Implementation of the GHS. The record of the 16 th Consultation (Geneva, May 2000) was accepted after agreeing to a proposal by Dr. Pratt to add in par. 13, the words "to a minimum" at the end of the text in the fourth bullet.

Status of technical work

Classification criteria for health, environment and mixtures by Dr. Koeter (OECD)

3. A progress report will be presented to the November 2000 OECD Joint Meeting on mixtures and target organ toxicity (TOT). Agreement has been reached on TOT end points for substances. Regarding the proposal for environment, only the chapter 7 on metals and metal compounds still needed final agreement.

4. The OECD Task Force still had to work on a number of four outstanding end points on hazards including aspiration, narcotic effects, respiratory, and water-activated toxicity/corrosivity. Neurotoxicity and immunotoxicity had been integrated to the work on TOT. Finally, on the environment side, work on terrestrial toxicity was still in the planning stages. It was hoped that harmonized proposals for all these end-points would be finalized within a year.

Hazard Communication by Ms. Wyeth (ILO)

5. Good progress had been made in general and the ILO Working Group had a clearer idea of the implications for labelling. The number of available options had been narrowed down again, thus providing a good basis for developing a Step 3 Proposal in time for endorsement by the ILO Governing Body at its November 2001 Session. More work was still needed on risk-based labelling for consumers. The University of Cape Town had produced a very good methodology for testing the comprehensibility of chemical hazard communication elements.

Physical Hazard by Mr. Benassai (Chair, UN CETDG)

6. The classification of aerosols was the only item pending for the UN CETDG/ILO Working Group. Agreement had been reached on a testing with a low cut-off value of 1%. Full agreement was not reached as yet and a ½ day would be devoted to the issue during the December 2000 session of the UN SCETDG. Work on harmonized criteria for corrosion to metals had been completed. In relation to a question by Dr. Lowe on compressed gases, Mr. Benassai indicated that no work was planned on this item for the time being and that it should possibly be left to the Sub-Committee on GHS to consider in the future. In any case Coordinating Group guidance was needed on this subject. Ms. Silk preferred that the work be done immediately if possible and Dr. Lowe pointed out that the record of the 16 th Consultation indicated that agreement seemed to have already been reached. Mr. Wright raised the question of cryogenic liquids and hoped that classification criteria would also be developed in time in this area. The Coordinating Group agreed that the Joint UNCETDG/ILO Working Group should start work on criteria for compressed gases.

Time line and work plans

7. No further work was reported on this item. No major changes and/or modifications were reported since the last meeting.

Report on Forum III

8. Ms. Silk and Dr. Sundquist reported on the Conference. The GHS presentation and overall work and progress were well received and raised a lot of interest, particularly in Regional Group Meetings. Ms. Silk thanked Mr. Puiatti (Brazil) for his excellent work with the Latin American/Caribbean and African Groups. Mr. Jonai (Japan) attended the meeting of the Asia/Pacific Group. The GHS issue was also debated during the elaboration of the two key IFCS III outputs: Priorities for Action Beyond 2000 and the Bahia Declaration. Excerpts of the two finalized documents relating to the GHS are listed in Annex 2.

9. One important point of discussion and which was not really clarified was the process of implementation of the GHS and particularly that of country adoption and date of entry in force. Another issue raised was the problem of GHS adoption by countries in relation to the Recommendations on TDG and the confusion this could create, since most countries had already adopted or were using the transport recommendations. Mr. Benassai stated that national regulatory bodies used the RTDG as basis for regulating and that the GHS could be adopted in the same way by major actors who could agree on a common date for implementation. The general consensus of the Coordinating Group was that although progressive implementation would probably be a reality, rapid adoption of the GHS should nonetheless be supported and strongly promoted.

10. Mr. Boljkovac informed the Group of his Organization's ongoing planning of pilot projects to organize guidance workshops for at least one country in each region. Other key points reported by the participants to Forum III regional group meetings and directly concerning the implementation of the GHS in developing countries, included:

- the need to organize more regional information seminars and workshops on the GHS and its implementation;
- what kind of tools, skills and infrastructures will be needed to implement the GHS; some countries have no structures at all;
- the need to define or explain the framework for implementation of the GHS in relation to the RTDG; some countries, such as Ecuador, are just at the level of adopting the RTDG;

- the UNITAR/ILO Thought Starter was well received as a basis for future capacity building efforts;
- country variation concerning availability of modern information communication tools was very high; internet access is not generalized and many country institutions responsible for regulating chemicals do not have access to internet or do not have colour printers;
- the need to consider all these points when developing the tools for GHS implementation;
- the need for massive involvement and support by industry in implementing the GHS.

Implementation of GHS

11. In response to a question by Ms Silk concerning the ECOSOC letter inviting countries to apply for membership in the SC/GHS, Ms. Bernardini (UN CETDG Secretariat) informed the Group that the letter had been sent to country mission to the UN in New York in July 2000 with a deadline of 31 December for the response. Replies from Austria, France and the Czech Republic had already been received. In relation to the composition of the Parent Committee, the CETDG will discuss the issue at its December 2000 meeting and possibly agree to a proposal but in the end, final decision will come from ECOSOC itself. Ms. Silk suggested that the CG should also make two proposals, one for a narrow and one for a wide composition. Concerning the letter of application, many countries had a hard time tracing the letter and when they finally received it, the response was sent to the ECOSOC in New York rather than to the UN CETDG Secretariat in Geneva as requested in the letter, hence the general delay in responding. In relation to the application by NGOs, there was a need for a document detailing the procedure to follow.

12. For NGO application Mr. Benassai and Ms. Bernardini explained that international and also regional NGOs which had already official recognition (consultative status) by the UN or one of its specialized agencies or programmes (WHO, ILO, UNEP, etc...), needed only to send a letter to the Secretary of the UN CETDG informing him of their participation in the SC/GHS. NGOs without consultative status had to do the same thing but their participation would have to be decided by the SC/GHS itself. Additional information could be found at the following Web address:
<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo>

13. Referring to the issue of composition of the Parent Committee (Larcom), Mr. Bagnios reminded the Group that the Resolution called for a wide participation but did not specify numbers and decision on the issue had to be made by ECOSOC. The CETDG had not reached consensus on this point and the discussion would continue at the December meeting to try reaching a consensus and a proposal. After a long debate on the pros and cons of a wide and a narrow Larcom, no clear consensus could be reached by the Coordinating Group on a proposal. It was agreed that discussion on this point would continue via e-mail and be revisited at the next meeting of the CG.

Guidance Document

14. Dr. Headrick (Canada) introduced the subject and Ms. Wyeth elaborated on the extended outline developed by the Secretariat. Overall the revised document, which integrated comments received previously, drew general support. The following points were made during discussion on this item:

- guidance for employers receiving MSDSs and labelled packages will be needed;
- the order in Annex I should be reviewed and overlap should be minimize;
- the document should include a model for a regulation which could be used by countries interested in adopting the GHS and integrating in their legislation;

- problem of balance of the document concerning the place of the Annex text versus the guidance text. For some, it was felt that the Annex text (agreement on classification and hazard communication) was more important than the guidance text. For other both part were equally important;
- a reference to comprehensibility in the introductory section should be sufficient and the full document should not be included either in chapter form or as Annex; guidelines for translation in other languages should be included;
- the need for a list of classified chemicals may be needed at some point in the future to avoid inconsistencies in classification;
- The issue of risk should be referred to in the general section of the Document;
- the agreed text for classification criteria and hazard communication should not be modified;
- consider the modalities for developing a database version of the Guidance Document on CD-ROM;
- the Document could be composed of modules (general guidance; comprehensibility; training, etc.)

15. Mr. Benassai requested clarification of the time schedule concerning availability of the Document. The ParCom was expected to meet in December 2002 and to transmit the Guidance Document to the ECOSOC for authorization to publish it. Other points to consider by the Group were that the Physical Hazards Section did not have any explanatory material and such information had to be developed. In relation to Pt. 7, decision logic would be needed for classification and label elements selection. The Physical Hazards List in Annex was not correct.

16. The Secretariat and the Drafting Party on Guidance took due note of the comments and agreed to continue working on the text of the Guidance document and consult via e-mail and teleconferences until the May 2001 meeting in Geneva. Written comments on the Outline should be sent to Dr. Headrick within 4 weeks.

Date and location of next meeting

17. As agreed at the Hazard Communication Meeting, the 18 th Consultation of the Coordinating Group will be held in Geneva at ILO Headquarters on 24-25 May 2001.

PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Agerup Nils Henrik, Chief Engineer, Section for Dangerous Goods, Directorate for Fire and Explosion Prevention, P.O. Box 355, Sentrum N-3101 Tonsberg, Norway. Tel: 47 33 39 88 00. Fax: 47 33 31 06 60. E-mail: nils.agerup@dbe.dep.telemax.no

Mr. Benassai Sergio, Chairman UN CETDG, Agenzia Nazionale per la Protezione dell' Ambiente, Via V. Brancati 48, Roma 00144, Italy. Tel: 39 06 5007 2573. Fax: 39 06 5007 2584. E-Mail: benassai@anpa.it

Ms. Bernardini Francesca, Secretariat, UN/ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, UN/ECE, Transport Division, Room 414, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Tel: 41 22 917 2463. Fax: 41 22 917 0039. E.mail: francesca.bernardini@unece.org

Mr. Boljkovac Craig, Deputy-Programme Coordinator, UNITAR, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Tel: 41 22 917 8471. Fax: 41 22 917 8047. E.mail: craig.boljkovac@unitar.org

Dr. Cerf Jacques, Union Carbide Canada, Suite 360, 7400 Les Galeries D'Anjou, Anjou, Quebec H1M 3M2, Canada. Tel.: 1 514 493 2669. Fax: 1 514 493 2618. E-Mail: cerfj1@ucarb.com

Mr. Cotterill Alan, Chief, Policy and Program Issues Division, Health Canada, Environmental Health Centre, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A OL2. Tel.: 1 613 954 0170. Fax: 1 613 941 8632. E-Mail: alan_cotterill@hc-sc.gc.ca

Ms. Di Discordia Paola, EIMAC, c/o Eurométaux, 12 Av. De Broqueville, B-1150 Bruxelles. Tel: 32 2 775 6313. Fax: 32 2 779 0523. E.mail: didiscordia@eurometaux.be

Mr. Fasey Andrew, Chemicals Policy Division, Health Directorate, Health and Safety Executive, Rose Court, 2 Southwark Bridge, London, SE1 9HS, United Kingdom. Tel: 44 207 717 6391. Fax: 44 297 717 6221. E.mail: andrew.fasey@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Mr. Galves Jose Antonio, Advogados Associados (representing Brazilian Chemical Industries), Rua Francisco Arvani, 181, Santo Amaro, S.P. Capital, Brazil. Tel: 11 246 8945 /55 24 3831. E.mail: jagalves@stivip.com.br

Mr. Götsch Hermann, Federal Ministry of Environment, Youth and Family Affairs, Chemicals (Dept I/2), Stubenbastei 5, A-1010 Vienna, Austria. Tel: 43 1 515 22 2338. Fax: 43 1 515 22 7334. E.mail: hermann.goetsch@bmu.gv.at

Mr. Haas Ulrich, (representing IOE), Manager Product Safety, Henkel, Henkelstrasse 67, D-401091 Düsseldorf, Germany. Tel: 49 211 797 9129. Fax: 49 211 798 1194. E-Mail: ulrich.haas@henkel.de

Ms. Hardeng Solvår, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Pollution Control Authority, P.O. Box 8100 Dep., Oslo N-0032, Norway. Tel: 47 2257 3400. Fax: 47 2267 6706. E-Mail: solvar.hardeng@sft.telemax.no

Ms. **Headrick Kim**, International Harmonization, Program Development Bureau, Health Canada, Room 139, Environmental Health Center, Tunney's Pasture, Address Locator 0801C1, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2, Canada. Tel: 1 613 952 9597. Fax: 1 613 954 2486.
E-Mail: kim_headrick@hc-sc.gc.ca

Mr. **Hirsh Paul**, International Affairs, American Chemistry Council, 1300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209, USA. Tel: 1 703 741 5237. Fax: 1 703 741 6237.
E-Mail: phirsh@americanchemistry.com

Mr. **Holland Stephen**, Manager, Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods, National Occupational Safety and Health Commission, 92 Parramatta Road, Camperdown NSW, 2050, GPO Box 58, Sydney NSW 2001, Australia. Tel: 61 2 9577 9426. Fax: 61 2 9577 9204.
E-Mail: hollands@nohsc.gov.au

Ms. **Jensen-Korte Uta**, Head of Product Regulation, Health and Safety, European Chemical Industries Council (CEFIC), Ave. E. Van Niewenhuyse 4, bte 1, B-1160 Bruxelles, Belgium. Tel: 32 2 676 7213. Fax: 32 2 676 7332. E-Mail: uje@cefic.be

Dr. **Jonai Hiroshi**, Senior Researcher, Division of Research Planning, National Institute of Industrial Health, Ministry of Labour, 6-21-1 Nagao Tama-Ku, Kawasaki 214-8585, Japan. Tel: 81 44 865 6111. Fax: 81 44 865 6116. E-Mail: jonai@niih.go.jp

Dr. **Kahler-Jenett Elke**, Division of Hazardous Substances, Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Friedrich-Henke-Weg 1-25, Dortmund, D-44149, Germany. Tel: 49 231 9071 589. Fax: 49 231 9071 611. E-Mail: elke.kahler-jenett@baua.de

Dr. **Koeter Herman B.W.M.**, Principal Administrator, Environmental Health and Safety Division, Environment Directorate, OECD, 2, rue André-Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16, France. Tel: 33 1 45 24 9844. Fax: 33 1 45 24 1675. E-Mail: herman.koeter@OECD.org

Dr. **Kohrman Karen**, Human and Environmental Safety Division, General Toxicology Organization, Procter and Gamble Co., Miami Valley Laboratories, P.O. Box 538707, Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8707, USA. Tel: 1 513 627 2670. Fax: 1 513 627 1167. E-Mail: kohrman.ka@pg.com

Ms. **Lowe Mary Frances**, EPA/Office of Pesticide Programs, Washington D.C., USA. Tel: 1 703 305 5689. Fax: 1 703 308 1850. E-Mail: lowe.maryfrances@epa.gov

Mr. **Machin William**, Councillor, European Chemical Industries Council (CEFIC), Ave. E. Van Niewenhuyse 4, bte 1, B-1160 Bruxelles, Belgium. Tel: 32 2 676 7277. Fax: 32 2 676 7332.
E-mail: wma@cefic.be

Mr. **Nash Stephen M.**, HM/DG Consultant, Corporate Environmental Affairs, Eli Lilly and Company, Lilly Corporate Center, Indianapolis, IN 46285, USA. Tel: 1 317 276 3537. Fax: 1 317 276 1800. E-Mail: s.nash@Lilly.com

Dr. **Oyama Kiyotaka**, General Manager, International Affairs Office, Japan Chemical Industries Association (JCIA), Kazan Bldg, 2-4 Kasumigaseki 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0013, Japan. Tel: 81 3 3519 21 66. Fax: 81 3 3580 0764. E-mail: koyama@jcia.net.or.jp

Ms. **Pettersson Ingrid**, Scientific Documentation and Research, National Chemicals Inspectorate (KEMI), P.O. Box 1384, S-171 27 Solna, Sweden.
Tel: 46 8 783 1246. Fax: 46 8 735 76 98. E-Mail: ingridp@kemi.se

Dr. **Pratt Iona**, Director of Specialists Unit, National Authority for Occupational Safety and Health, 10 Hogan Place, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: 353 1 614 7109. Fax: 353 1 614 7021.
E-Mail: iona@hsa.ie

Mr. **Puiatti Roque**, Health and Safety Inspector, Regional Office/RS, Ministry of Labour, Av. Mauà, 1013 - 3º andar, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil
Tel: 55 51 228 6544. Fax: 55 61 224 3538/222 4250/388 1036. E-Mail: rpuiatti@via-rs.net

Ms. **Ringström Anita**, Deputy Director-General, KEMIKONTORET, Storgatan, 19, Box 5501, S-11485 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel: 46 878 38 000. Fax: 46 866 36 323. E-Mail: arm@chemind.se

Mr. **Roberts Alan I.**, President, Hazardous Materials Advisory Council (HMAC), 1101 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 301, Washington, DC 20005, USA.
Tel.: 1 202 289 4550. Fax: 1 202 289 4074. E-Mail: aroberts@hmac.org

Mr. **Robson Peter G.**, Consultant to CCPA, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
Tel: 1 613 549 1284. Fax: 1 613 549 6249. E-Mail: probson@limestone.kosone.com

Dr. **Roelfzema Henk**, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, Parnassusplein 5, 2511 VX Den Haag, [Postbus 20350, 2500 EJ Den Haag], The Netherlands.
Tel: 31 70 340 6965. Fax: 31 70 340 5087. E-Mail: h.roelfzema@minvws.nl

Dr. **Savard Jacques**, Director Regulatory Affairs, Transport Dangerous Goods, Transport Canada, Place de Ville, Tower C, 330 Sparks Street, 9 th floor, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N5, Canada.
Tel: 1 613 990 1154. Fax: 1 613 993 5925. E-Mail: savarjj@tc.gc.ca

Mr. **Schwob Rudolf**, Corporate Safety and Environmental Protection, F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG, 4070 Basel, Switzerland. Tel: 41 61 688 6305. Fax: 41 61 688 1920.
E-Mail: rudolf.schwob@roche.com

Mr. **Sedlak Richard**, (representing IOE), Coordinating Committee on International Harmonization, Soap and Detergent Association (SDA), 1500 K Street NW, Suite 300, Washington DC 20005, USA. Tel: 1 202 662 2523. Fax: 1 202 347 4110. E-Mail: rsedlak@sдахq.org

Ms. **Silk Jennifer**, Director, Office of Technical Programs and Coordination Activities, US OSHA, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Room N3653, Washington DC 20210, USA.
Tel: 1 202 693 2110. Fax: 1 202 693 1644. E-Mail: jennifer.silk@osha-no.osha.gov

Mr. **Stoffman Larry**, Canadian Labour Congress, Director Occupational Health/Safety, United Food & Commercial Workers, 3561 W. 35 th Ave., Vancouver, BC, Canada V6N 2N4.
Tel: 604 266 0440. E-mail: larryst@atccanada.net

Dr. **Sullivan Michele**, Senior Director, Implementation & Performance, Responsible Care, 1300 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22209, USA. Tel: 1 703 741 5305. Fax: 1 703 741 6305.
E-Mail: michele_sullivan@americanchemistry.com

Ms. **Sundquist Anna-Liisa**, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, P.O. Box 536, SF-33101 Tampere, Finland. Tel: 358 3 2608 443. Fax: 358 3 2608 425.
E-Mail: anna-liisa.sundquist@stm.vn.fi

Prof. Dr. **Wettig Klaus**, Federal Institute for Health Protection of the Consumers, D-14191 Berlin, Thielallee 88, Germany. Tel: 0188-84 12 3866. Fax: 0188-84 12 32 64.
E-Mail: K.Wettig@bgvv.de

Mr. **Wright Michael J.**, Director of Health, Safety and Environment, United Steelworkers of America (USWA), 5 Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, USA.
Tel: 1 412 562 2581. Fax: 1 412 562 2584. E-Mail: mwright@uswa.org

Mr. **Wybenga Frits**, International Standards Co-ordinator, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, Research And Special Programs Administration, US Department of Transportation, Room 8321, Nassif Building, 400 7 th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590-0001, USA. Tel: 1 202 366 0656. Fax: 1 202 366 5713. E.mail: frits.wybenga@rspa.dot.gov

SECRETARIAT

Mr. **Obadia Isaac**, SafeWork Branch, International Labour Office, 1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland.
Tel: 41 22 799 6746. Fax: 41 22 799 6878. E.mail: obadia@ilo.org.

Ms. **Wyeth Julie**, Chemicals Policy Division, Health Directorate, Health and Safety Executive, Rosecourt, 2 Southwark Bridge, London, SE1 9HS, United Kingdom.
Tel: 44 1 171 717 6350. Fax: 44 171 717 6221. E-Mail: julie.wyeth@hse.gsi.gov.uk
