

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

Eighth session, 7-9 December 2004
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

International cooperation

Activities in support of implementation of the GHS

Transmitted by the World Health Office
(on behalf of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS))¹

The IPCS is committed to assisting countries implementing the GHS through its ongoing work and in cooperation with sister organizations such as the Organization for Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). WHO is a participant in the Global WSSD Partnership and regularly shares information and works in collaboration with the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building.

IPCS's commitment to assist countries to implement the GHS is provided on the IPCS website (http://www.who.int/ipcs/capacity_building/ghs_statement/en/).

Over the past six months the IPCS has undertaken the following activities:

- Convening of an International Workshop on IPCS Workshop on the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), First-Aid and Poison Centre Training Materials (Freiburg, Germany, 23 - 25 June 2004). This Workshop provided an opportunity to discuss detailed comments from experts in clinical toxicology, poisons information, public health and occupational health and safety, on the proposed precautionary statements for Annex 3 to the GHS. It also served to introduce the GHS to these deliverers of health services and to stress the importance of the GHS in their role in the management and prevention of poisoning.
- Consultation with the experts group involved in the compilation of International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC) regarding the GHS and in particular the development of harmonized precautionary statements.
- Development and coordinating implementation of the IPCS/ILO International Chemical Control Toolkit (control banding) as a practical tool for managing exposures to chemicals, particularly in small and medium sized businesses. This initiative, which has been accepted

¹ *The International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) is a cooperative programme between the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). WHO's Programme for the Promotion of Chemical Safety (PCS) provides the Central Unit of IPCS.*

by UNITAR as a contribution to GHS implementation, uses the agreed hazard classifications of chemicals identified through implementation of the GHS together with information about exposure potential. As part of this work a WHO/IPCS Planning Meeting in Utrecht, Netherlands, 13-16 June 2004 prepared pilot projects to apply control banding in a number of developing countries. A Workshop to further the Brazilian pilot project is being held in conjunction with the UNITAR South American Sub-Regional Workshop on Chemical Hazard Communication and GHS Implementation (29 November - 2 December, Sao Paulo).

- Provision of expert advice to the OECD in the refinement of hazard classification criteria for carcinogenicity and reproductive toxicity, drawing on the work of the IPCS Harmonization project.

Over the next 6 months IPCS will be focusing on:

- a review of three of its risk assessment products (the Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADS), The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC). This review will provide recommendations for how these IPCS risk assessment products might be improved or developed to maximize their potential use by countries in implementation of the GHS.
 - Surveying needs and developing proposals for training materials for poisons centres to enable them to recognize and use GHS labels and safety data sheets.
 - Further implementation of the International Chemical Control Toolkit. A major event will be the 3rd International Workshop on Control Banding (a joint event with both IOHA (International Occupational Hygiene Association) 2005 International Scientific Conference and the World Safety Congress, in September 2005.
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