

## 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 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

#### UPDATING OF THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)

##### Water Activated Toxicity

##### Transmitted by the experts from France and the United States of America

1. During the 6th session of the GHS Sub-Committee, OECD submitted a proposal (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/9 (attached)) to incorporate requirements for substances which in contact with water, release toxic gases. The annex of the OECD proposal included text that was considered suitable for incorporation in the GHS.
2. During the discussion on the OECD proposal the expert from France raised the concern that the provisions for evolution rate and the adequacy of the classification of mixtures needed further consideration. The GHS Sub-Committee agreed that the matter should be revisited.
3. Considering that the proposal developed by OECD and presented in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/9 generally provided acceptable criteria for all sectors, that the second edition of the GHS will be published in 2005 but may not be published again in 2007 and that WAT criteria are useful addition to the GHS for all sectors, the experts from France and the United States of America propose that the parts of the OECD proposal that are satisfactory be considered for incorporation in the next edition of the GHS.
4. Considering the work going on concerning Toxic Gas Mixtures, it is proposed to postpone the decision on mixture of WAT.
5. Considering that WAT is combining a health hazard (toxicity) with a physical reaction (gas evolution), it is proposed to keep the work on the inclusion of the evolution rate in the criteria as an agenda item for the next biennium. The TDG Sub-Committee has extended experience and knowledge in this field and is going to address the issue any way because of NOTE 4 of the Annex to document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/9 which is reproduced hereafter. The GHS Sub-Committee should endorse this work and consider its result for inclusion in the GHS as appropriate at a later time.

### **Proposal**

6. Adopt the provisions in the annex of ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2003/9 with the exception of paragraphs A7-A8 (classification of mixtures).
  7. Request the TDG Sub-Committee to further consider:
    - the methods for determining the evolution rate (e.g. test NS) and develop new methods as appropriate;
    - the evolution rate criteria and the classification of mixtures.
-