

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

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Item 5(a) of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

Reports from Governments or organizations

Implementation update

Transmitted by the expert from Brazil

1. Introduction

The Brazilian government, through the GT-GHS Working Group, which is made up of more than 40 governmental and non-governmental institutions, had been working on the issues related to GHS since 2001.

Dozen of activities were developed since 2001, such as, national workshops, South America Workshop, one-week training courses, impact analysis study in various sectors, translations, the creation of a webpage, etc.

2. The Presidential Decree

The President of the Republic of Brazil signed a Decree formalizing the GT-GHS in 26th June 2007, which will have the responsibility for elaborating and proposing strategies, guidelines, programs, plans for action and a transitional period, for the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in the country.

The Coordination of the GT-GHS will be done by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Development, with two sub-coordinations from the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Ministry of Health and will also have the task of identifying and inviting the actors, from the public and private sectors which, directly or indirectly will be affected by the implementation of the GHS in Brazil, encouraging the partnerships, synergies and interactions among the participants, respecting the legal responsibilities and the functions of the governmental bodies.

3. Training

The GT-GHS planned a further one-week training course for 2007.

1st Semester 2007

- 3rd GHS one-week training course (25 to 29/06/2007), in Porto Alegre, with 25 participants from industry, public institutions (health, labour) and universities.

2nd Semester 2007 (in the planning stage)

- 4th GHS one-week training course, in Salvador – Bahia.
- 5th GHS one-week training course, in Sao Paulo.
- 1st GHS one-week training course for specialists from public institutions and agencies, in Brasilia.

4. Translation of the Purple Book into Portuguese

The continuing process of translation of the Purple Book into Portuguese, sponsored by the Ministry of Health.

1st Semester 2007

- 1st meeting for the harmonization of the translation of expressions and certain words in the Purple Book into Portuguese – 4th to 5th June, in Brasilia, with participants from the Ministry of Health, Labour, Environment, Trade and Industry, Health Surveillance National Agency (ANVISA), Brazilian Chemical Industry Association (ABIQUIM), Brazilian Institute of Metrology and Standardization (INMETRO), National Foundation for Health and Safety (FUNDACENTRO), Brazilian Chemical Fine Industry Association (ABIFINA), Brazilian Paint and Varnish Association, etc.

2nd semester 2007 (in the planning stage)

- 2nd meeting for the harmonization of the translation of expressions and certain words of the Purple Book into Portuguese, August 2007, in Sao Paulo.
- Final revision of the translation and printing of 1.000 copies of the Portuguese version of the Purple Book.

5. Comprehensibility

One of the key issues of the GHS is comprehensibility, for which the Ministry of Health has sponsored a project.

1st semester 2007

- Development of methodology for the application of the Comprehensibility Study Testing (Feb to June 2007).

2nd semester 2007 (in the planning stage)

- Application of the methodology for the Comprehensibility Study Testing (July to Dec 2007).

6. International Cooperation

2nd semester 2007 (in the planning stage)

- GHS One-week training course, in Montevideo, in 2007, as a result of a cooperation program between the Ministry of Health of Brazil -Ministry of Health of Uruguay.

7. International Participation

- Participation (as an observer) of the Task Force meeting on Harmonization of Classification and Labelling (4-5 July) and the OECD Workshop on the application of GHS criteria (6 July), in Switzerland.
- Preparatory meeting of the Brazilian delegation for the 13th session of SCEGHS.

8. Other activities

- Meetings of the Sub-groups of the GT-GHS: Confidential Business Information (CBI) and Training courses.
 - Presentations in Seminars about Chemical Safety and Pesticides on the issues related to the GHS.
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