
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

Implementattion update

Transmitted by the expert from Brazil

1. Introduction

The Brazilian government, through its Ministries, Agencies, Institutions and Foundations is working towards the implementation of the GHS. This task started in 2001 and since then dozens of activities were developed: national workshops, a South American Workshop, training courses, aware raising seminars, presentations in events, process for the translation of the Purple Book into Portuguese, etc.

Non-governmental organization, especially from industry, developed many activities over the last few years: organization of events, elaboration of GHS informational material, impact analysis studies, etc.

2. The Presidential Decree

Last July the President of Brazil signed a Decree formalizing the GT-GHS Working Group, which will have the responsibility for elaborating and proposing strategies, guidelines, programs and plans for action.

The institutions had already nominated their representatives and is work is schedule to start at the beginning of next year.

The update of the Ministry of Labour Ordinance number 26, which deals with Hazard Communication of Chemicals, to bring it in line with GHS was discussed for the first time in the Permanent Tripartite Commission of the Ministry of Labour. This issue is on the agenda for further discussion.

3. Training

In the second semester of 2007 one more GHS one-week training course (23 - 27 July) was organized, in Salvador - Bahia, with 25 participants.

Discussions and elaboration of the program for the 1st GHS one-week training course for specialists from public institutions and agencies was also begun.

Plans for the year 2008 include:

- 1st GHS one-week training course for specialists from public institutions and agencies, which will be held in Brasilia – in March
- 5th GHS one-week training course, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro
- 6th GHS one-week training course, which will be held in Sao Paulo
- 7th GHS one-week training course, which will be held in Recife

4. Translation of the Purple Book into Portuguese

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

In the second semester 2007 three meetings took place – one in Brasilia and two in Sao Paulo - for the harmonization of the translation of expressions and certain words in the Purple Book into Portuguese, with the participations of more than 10 governmental and private institutions.

The plan is to publish the Portuguese version of the Purple Book in 2008.

5. Comprehensibility

The development of a methodology to apply the Comprehensibility testing, based on the Annex 6 of the Purple Book, was elaborated and presented last August, in Sao Paulo, for participants from governmental and private institutions. The second phase of the Comprehensibility project is planned for 2008. The Ministry of Health is sponsoring this project.

6. International Participation

UNITAR and ACIDI/Canada invited representative from Brazil to present GHS and the Brazilian experience on the implementation, at the *Taller Regional Centroamericano – Manejo seguro de Substancias Quimicas*, held in Managua- Nicaragua, 3 - 5 October.

Training, Technical Cooperation and the process of implementation of the GHS were some of the questions which rose from the plenary.

7. Other activities

To start the elaboration of a project to verify the quality and consistency of Safety Data Sheets in the market, in five sectors, and its use in the workplace, using the Annex 4 of the Purple Book as a basis.

Presentation of the GHS in a Workshop: Product Stewardship, held in November, in Rio de Janeiro, organized by Petrobras (Brazilian oil and gas company). After the presentation was initiated discussions for the company to be involved in the GHS implementation issues.
