

UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.28

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

Fourteenth session
Geneva, 12-14 December 2007
Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

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

Physical hazards

Substances having explosive properties: Comments to UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.13

Transmitted by the expert from Germany

Introduction

1. As agreed at the last Meeting, the Secretariat prepared a working document (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/6) reflecting the changes that were proposed by the Working Group on Explosives and subsequently agreed by the Sub-Committee TDG.
2. The proposal which is put forward by this working document intends to overcome a shortcoming of the classification scheme of substances having explosive properties in the GHS.
3. Originally, the Working group on Explosives had to come to a conclusion regarding the German proposal put forward in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/1. The Working Group on Explosives agreed that the shortcoming addressed in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/1 should be solved. However, the German proposal was not accepted but should be further elaborated taking into account the comments of the Working Group on Explosives.
4. Nevertheless, the discussions in the Working Group on Explosives made clear that also for the meantime a solution should be found. The working group agreed that the footnote relating to Test series 1 in Figure 2.1.2 which reads "For classification purposes, start with Test series 2" should be deleted and that some explanatory wording should be included (which is the content of working document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/6).

Background information on the proposal of the working group explosives

5. The UN Manual of Tests and Criteria states that Test series 1 is concerned with the resolution of questions relating to the explosive nature of the substance. And only Test series 1 answers the question "Is it an explosive substance?" for substances which are not classified based on their chemical structure (e.g. organic peroxides and partly self-reactive substances).
 6. Test series 1 gives important information about hazards of substances or mixtures even (or especially) if they are exempted from the class of explosives based on test series 2 (or later in the hazardous division assignment procedure).
 7. It is important to obtain such information (e. g. for new substances or mixtures) in order to be able to comprehensively describe their properties (e. g. as required by the GHS in Table 1.5.2, 2. (c) for the SDS).
-