

UN/SCEGHS/15/INF.15

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

Fifteenth session,
Geneva, 9-11 July 2008
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

OTHER BUSINESS

Draft summary record of the 17th meeting of the
OECD Task Force on Harmonisation of Classification and Labelling

Transmitted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

**DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17TH MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON
HARMONISATION OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING**

(without Annexes 2-4)

24-25 April 2008

The Summary Record will be finally approved at the 18th meeting of the Task Force. Any amendments made to this record at the 18th meeting will be noted in the Summary Record of the 18th meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting. Adoption of the draft Agenda

1. Thomas Gebel (Germany), new Chair of the Task Force, opened the meeting and invited all participants to introduce themselves (see Annex 1 for the Participants List. The draft Agenda ENV/JM/HCL/A(2008)3 was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of approval of the draft summary record of the last Task Force meeting

2. The Summary Record of the 16th meeting of the Task Force was finally approved with the following changes:

- Paragraph 7: “in vivo” should be replaced with “in vitro”;
- Paragraph 9: “exposure to that organism” should be replaced with “exposure to that substance”.

Agenda Item 3: Information by the Secretariat

3. The Secretariat summarized progress achieved since the last Task Force meeting: the proposal for revising GHS Chapter 4.1, Annex 9 and consequential amendments was adopted by the UN Sub-Committee in December 2007. The proposal for classification and labelling of ozone Depleting Chemicals was declassified by the Joint Meeting in January 2008 and sent to the secretariat of the Sub-Committee. It will be submitted as a formal document at the next subcommittee meeting, in July 2008. As for the work on sensitizers, one expert meeting was held in the United States on 10-11 March 2008, following the US peer review Panel meeting on the Local Lymph Node Assay. Regarding the work on the Terrestrial Hazards and on the validation of the transformation/Dissolution Protocol, expert group meetings were held back to back in the United States 23-24 October 2007 and in Paris on 22 and 23 April 2008.

4. The room document including the General Principles for processes to be used by the Task Force on HCL was submitted to the Joint Meeting in February 2008. The report of the Workshop on the Application of the GHS Classification Criteria to HPV Chemicals was published in the OECD Series on testing and Assessment (N° 84); it was submitted to the last meeting of the Sub-Committee as an information document.

Agenda Item 4: Strong versus weak sensitizers

5. There were three meeting documents for this item: ENV/JM/HCL(2008)1 was the outcome of the expert group meeting held in Bethesda on 10-11 March 2008; ENV/JM/HCL(2008)6 was the draft formal proposal for the UN SCEGHS including the proposed changes to Chapter 3.4 and consequential changes to the GHS; ENV/JM/HCL(2008)5 was an information document for the UN SCEGHS including explanatory notes and Chapter 3.4 with the visible changes in the document.

6. Sweden introduced two proposals for changes, sent to the Secretariat before the meeting. The first one was related to the discrimination between mixtures and the opportunity to have subcategories for non tested mixtures. The Chair explained that different cut-offs already apply to mixtures depending on whether they contain a sensitizer in Subcategory 1A or 1B. Therefore, mixtures including a sensitizer in category 1A are already discriminated from mixtures containing a sensitizer in category 1B. The second proposal was to add the possibility to classify in subcategory 1A in cases where data are not sufficient to subcategorize. There was no support for this proposal, and Sweden agreed to withdraw its two proposals for changes.

7. The Task Force agreed on several changes to Document ENV/JM/HCL(2008)5 proposed by France, Japan, and the Netherlands (see Annex 2). Canada raised concerns that guinea pig data may not be sufficiently detailed to allow sub-categorization and that the 20% cut-off for the Buehler test may not be sufficient. However, recognizing that the proposal allows for the general sensitization classification and that a weight of evidence approach should be used to sub-categorize strong and weak sensitizers, Canada joined the consensus to support the proposal and the Task Force approved its submission to the Joint Meeting for declassification.

Agenda Item 5: Terrestrial Environmental Hazards

8. A draft progress report for the UN SCEGHS [ENV/JM/HCL(2008)2] and a draft Annex 1 to this progress report [ENV/JM/HCL(2008)3] had been posted on the website for the Task Force meeting. José Tarazona (Spain), Chair of the expert group on terrestrial environmental hazards, presented the widely revised draft progress report, which was agreed by the expert group at the meeting held immediately before the Task Force meeting, on 23 April 2008. He explained how comments from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and BIAC had been taken into account by the expert group.

9. All countries and BIAC recognized that the revised report was greatly improved; the Task Force agreed on a change proposed by BIAC to Paragraph 29 on availability of data. BIAC questioned a new Paragraph referring to irrigation water. However, as this paragraph had been added in response to a comment from the United Kingdom, the Task Force agreed to delete it if the United Kingdom requests its deletion. BIAC stressed the need for an analysis cost-benefit before developing any classification system for the terrestrial environment.

10. Given that the revised expert group proposal was available at the meeting only, the Task Force provisionally approved the document and its annex 1; it was agreed that the Secretariat would request confirmation of approval within three weeks. The changes to document ENV/JM/HCL(2008)2, agreed at the Task Force meeting, are included in Annex 3.

Agenda Item 6: Transformation Dissolution Protocol for metals and metal compounds

11. The Secretariat introduced the draft document developed by the extended Validation Management Group on 22 April 2008 ([Annex 4](#)). The Task Force agreed to include the two first annexes only, and agreed on a few other changes to the draft document, visible in Annex 4. Given that the draft document was available at the meeting only, the Task Force provisionally approved the document. It was agreed that the Secretariat would request confirmation of approval within three weeks.

12. The United States proposed the following consequential change to GHS Chapter 4.1, Paragraph 4.1.2.11.2: Replace the last sentence with: "All evidence must be weighed in a classification decision. This would be especially true for metals showing borderline results in the Transformation/Dissolution Protocol." This proposal was agreed by the Task Force. It will be submitted to the Joint Meeting for declassification and to the UN Sub-Committee.

Agenda Item 7: Ozone Depleting Chemicals

13. The Chair presented the history of document ENV/JM/HCL/(2008)7 and invited the Task Force to comment on the proposal for a precautionary statement, and for codes for the hazard statement and for the precautionary statement. The Task Force approved the submission of the original proposal contained in document ENV/JM/HCL/(2008)7 to the Joint Meeting and submission to the UN SCEGHS as an information document in July.

Agenda Item 8: Draft Terms of Reference for the Task Force on HCL

14. The Secretariat explained that draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) of all sub-bodies will be submitted to the Joint Meeting for approval in November 2008. The Task Force agreed to the draft ToRs.

Programme of Work

15. Document ENV/JM/HCL(2008)8 included the schedule of activities that was submitted to the Joint Meeting in February 2008. It was noted that the proposal for a new chapter on Ozone Depleting Chemicals was already declassified. The Secretariat will update the work plan, considering the latest progress with the different activities.

17. Canada asked whether the Task Force wanted to consider developing a Programme of Work to ultimately propose to the UN Sub-Committee. The Task Force provisionally agreed on a proposal made by Spain.

18. The Chair explained that a Task Force is not expected in 2009, given that any new task requested by the UN SCEGHS in December 2008, would only start in 2009.

Annex 1: Participants list

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