

## 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

Sixteenth session,  
Geneva, 10 – 12 (a.m) December 2008  
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

#### Report from the informal working group on implementation issues

Submitted by the expert from Australia on behalf of the informal working group

1. The informal group on implementation issues met prior to the sixteenth session of the Sub-Committee in December 2008, and discussed issues related to GHS implementation, including those identified in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/22.
2. This paper summarizes the discussions of the informal group, including suggestions for addressing some of the issues on implementation, and recommendations for a programme of further work, subject to the agreement of the Sub-Committee.
3. Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/22 contains a number of proposals for consideration by the Sub-Committee. This information document identifies additional information on a few of the proposals, raised at the informal group meeting.
  - (a) Issue 1.3: The group agreed that further work on the proposal for a definition of “endpoint” and changes to the GHS, as identified in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/28, requires further discussion and work by the group, and proposes that the Sub-Committee consider this issue during the next biennium;
  - (b) Issue 1.4: The United States of America agreed to draft some text for consideration by the Sub-Committee during the next biennium to address the issue of definitions for “no available data” etc;
  - (c) Issue 3.3: The group considered that the issue of development of guidance material for extrapolation between oral, dermal and inhalation acute toxicity estimates should be referred back to the Sub-Committee at a later date, if the need for such material is identified;

- (d) Issues 3.5–3.12: The group agreed that a review of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 in the next biennium was warranted and that a proposal identifying the scope and timeframe for such a revision would be developed by a group including Germany, Canada, United States of America, United Kingdom, European Commission and industry representatives, for consideration by the Sub-Committee;
- (e) Issue 3.20: The group agreed that any proposals related to work for the mixtures informal working group in the next biennium are subject to a decision by the Sub-Committee on the mandate and work programme for the mixtures group;
- (f) Issue 4.4 (g): The group agreed that further discussion by the Sub-Committee was needed on the issue of whether an international list of classifications should be developed, and that a more detailed discussion paper on this issue be undertaken in the next biennium.

#### 4. Working arrangements

The group agreed that it would continue to meet by correspondence intersessionally, as well as face-to-face in the margins of the Sub-Committee. Members were asked to forward new implementation issues, as well as proposals to resolve such issues, to Australia by mid March 2009 so that a working document could be prepared for the July 2009 Sub-Committee meeting.

#### 5. Scope of the work of the implementation group

Members also discussed the scope of the work of the implementation group. It was noted that a considerable number of suggestions for proposed changes to the GHS could be sent to the group in the future. The terms of reference for the group specify that it has an advisory role to assist the Sub-Committee in addressing issues related to implementation. The group discussed that all implementation-related issues do not need to come to the group, and issues can continue to be sent directly to the Sub Committee. Additionally, proposals for changes to the GHS that are not specifically related to implementation should continue to be referred directly to the Sub-Committee.

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