

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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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

Status of implementation of the GHS in Brazil

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

2. GT-GHS Brazil

The President of Brazil signed a Decree in 26th July 2007 formalizing the GT-GHS Working Group, which will have the responsibility to elaborate and propose strategies, guidelines, programs and plans of action.

In the first semester of 2009 three meetings took place in Brasilia (8th April, 04th June and 19th June). The Terms of Reference were approved and the process of compilation of the national legislation related to Classification and Hazard Communication of Chemicals has already started.

Representatives of the private sector were invited to participate in the meeting of 19th June, to discuss the process and steps of GHS implementation in Brazil.

3. 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 first semester 2009 three meetings took place in Brasilia for the harmonization of the translation of expressions and certain words, with the participation of more than 12 governmental and private institutions.

Chapters 1 and 3 are expected to be published soon in the Official Brazilian Journal for public comment. It is also expected that the translation will

The expectation is that the work of translation will be finished in the second semester of 2009.

4. Awareness raising events

A presentation about GHS was made in an event on REACH organized by the Ministry of Industry, Development and Trade, which was held in Brasilia (on 7 April) attended by more than 50 people, from governmental institutions and private sector.

5. Revision of the national legislation based on GHS

The National Tripartite Standing Commission of Health and Safety at Work (Ministry of Labour and Employment) approved on a meeting on 4 and 5 March, the beginning of the process for the revision of Ordinance number 26, which deals with Chemicals Hazard Communication, with a view to aligning it with the GHS.

In the second semester of 2009 a workshop will take place to discuss the views of the government, employers and employees representations on the issue and on the process of the revision of the Ordinance. After this, the Ministry of Labour and Employment will begin the elaboration of the new text, for public consultation.

In December 2008, the Ministry of Labour and Employment published for public consultation the revision of Ordinance number 20, which deals with Safety at Work with Flammable Gases and Liquids. The proposal is in line with GHS classification (chapters 2.2 and 2.6 of the Purple Book)

6. GHS and REACH

The Brazilian National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (INMETRO) organized four meetings related to GHS and REACH since December 2008: One workshop in São Paulo, two courses (one in Brasilia and the other in Rio de Janeiro), and a meeting with chemical downstream users associations, regarding issues related to GHS and REACH. These events were attended by more than 80 stakeholders from public sector, industry and industry associations.

After these activities, partially supported by a Brazil-EU cooperation, some industry associations as the Brazilian Textile Industry Association (ABIT) and the Brazilian Timber and Processed Wood Industry Association (ABIMCI) demanded activities regarding technical information on GHS and REACH. To answer to this request, a seminar was organized with the participation of specialists from INMETRO and ABIQUIM.
