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**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****Twentieth session**

Geneva, 7–9 December 2010

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Hazard communication issues****Hazard communication for gases under pressure: proposal  
resulting from ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2010/9****Transmitted by the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA)<sup>1</sup>****Introduction**

1. EIGA participated in the informal working group on the development of criteria and a test method for the classification of chemically unstable gases and supports the proposals presented by Germany in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2010/9.
2. EIGA notes that chemically unstable gases listed in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2010/9 will also be assigned the hazard statement H280 “Contains gas under pressure, may explode if heated” and one of the two new proposed hazard statements “May react explosively even in the absence of air” or “May react explosively even in the absence of air at elevated pressure”
3. Although H280 refers to the “explosion” of the container while the new phrases refer to the “explosion” of the content (the gas), EIGA proposes to make a distinction between the description of the two effects. The new hazard statements rightfully qualify as explosion the chemical reaction of the gas, while the effect described with H280 is not an explosion but the bursting of the receptacle due to the overpressure created by the increase of temperature of the content.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for the biennium 2009–2010 approved by the Committee at its fourth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/36 par. 14 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/32, Annex II).

## Proposal

4. EIGA proposes to modify H280 to read as follows:  
“Contains gas under pressure, may burst if heated”
  5. The new wording would be in line with the new hazard statement H229 “May burst if heated” proposed by the Federation of European Aerosol Associations (FEA) for the labelling of aerosols.
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