



**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 7 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for the biennium 2011–2012**Proposed terms of reference for the dust explosion hazards
correspondence group for the next biennium****Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America on behalf
of the informal correspondence group on dust explosion hazards¹****Background**

1. At the seventeenth session of the Sub-Committee, a correspondence group was formed, comprised of representatives that are subject matter experts, to collect information on dust explosion hazards from the members. The type of background information to be requested included:

- (a) Existing definitions or criteria for dust explosion hazards including any analytical methods used and any methods for determining related relevant safety data used;
- (b) Requirements (if any) for hazard communication on labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS);
- (c) Explosion protection concept and derived safety measures; and
- (d) Identification of issues related to addressing dust explosion hazards in the GHS, if any.

2. The correspondence group was also charged with analyzing the information collected and preparing an informal paper to be presented to the Sub-Committee

¹ In accordance with the report of the Sub-Committee of Experts on its seventeenth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/34, paras. 9–13).

summarizing the issues, as well as documenting the current practices/regulations that address dust explosion hazards.

Status

3. The correspondence group developed a dust explosion hazards survey (see Annex 1) and circulated it to the heads of delegation of the member countries.
4. At the nineteenth session of the Sub-Committee, the dust explosion hazards correspondence group reported that they had received survey results from seven countries.
5. The correspondence group met at the end of the plenary session and discussed the survey results. The group decided that the information received was not sufficient and that information from industry representatives would provide additional insight into the hazards of dusts in the workplace. Therefore, the correspondence group agreed to send the survey to the representatives of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are represented on the Sub-Committee. This survey was sent to the NGOs on August 4, 2010 (see Annex 2). The group agreed to compile and evaluate the NGO survey results along with the survey results from the member countries once they are received.

Proposal

6. To continue work on dust explosion hazards in the next biennium, the following terms of reference are proposed by the correspondence group.
 - Continue to compile and analyze the dust explosion hazard survey responses received from the heads of delegation from the member countries and the NGO representatives.
 - Identify common themes in the responses and missing information.
 - Determine the follow-up required to capture any missing information.
 - Determine what and how information (if any) should be conveyed in the GHS.
7. The correspondence group plans to meet during the plenary session to discuss additional results received.

Annex 1

Dust explosion hazard survey

[English only]

Government/Member State:

Name:

Contact information:

A. Definition

1. How should explosible dust be defined - by minimum particle size, without regard for particle size, or should the definition vary for the type of dust?
2. Do you determine whether a dust is considered explosible by reference to published data, testing, safety data sheets (SDSs), or some other means? Please explain.

B. Testing

3. Is responsibility assigned (by law) for determining if a dust presents an explosion hazard? If so, must the person making the determination have any expertise or qualifications?
4. Are there any prescribed tests to determine the explosibility of materials when in dust form? If so, please provide copies (in English, if possible).
5. Indicate what additional tests are conducted to determine the level of explosibility of a particular dust. If there are tests, are they generic or specific to the circumstances of the particular dust?
6. Do you have any dusts that you assume to be explosible or that present an explosion hazard, and, thus, preclude the need or expense of testing? If so, please indicate what type of dust.

C. Hazard communication

7. Do you require SDSs to communicate the hazards associated with dust explosions? Do you require SDSs to list mitigation measures? If so, please provide the reference for these requirements.
8. How is information on the hazards of, and controls for, dust explosions communicated to workers?
9. If appropriate, what information is placed on labels to identify the possibility of a dust explosion hazard?

D. Standards

10. What standards or guides are used in your country to address explosible dusts in any manner (definition, testing, hazard recognition, hazard assessment, hazard communication, mitigation methods, emergency response, investigation, etc.)? Indicate if they are used throughout your country, or in a portion (state, province, city, etc.). Please provide a copy (in English, if possible).

Annex 2

NGO Dust explosion hazard survey

[English only]

Non-Governmental Organization:

Name:

Contact information:

A. Definition

1. How should explosible dust be defined - by minimum particle size, without regard for particle size, or should the definition vary for the type of dust?
2. Do you determine whether a dust is considered explosible by reference to published data, testing, safety data sheets (SDSs), or some other means? Please explain.

B. Testing

3. Is responsibility assigned (by law or other means) for determining if a dust presents an explosion hazard? If so, must the person making the determination have any expertise or qualifications?
4. Are there any prescribed tests to determine the explosibility of materials when in dust form? If so, please provide copies (in English, if possible).
5. Indicate additional tests conducted to determine the level of explosibility of a particular dust. If there are tests, are they generic or specific to the circumstances of the particular dust?
6. Do you have any dusts that you assume to be explosible or that present an explosion hazard, and, thus, preclude the need or expense of testing? If so, please indicate what type of dust.

C. Hazard communication

For those developing or creating safety data sheets and labels:

7. Do you use SDSs to list mitigation measures? If so, please identify the information you provide.
8. If appropriate, what information is placed on labels to identify the possibility of a dust explosion hazard?

For those using safety data sheets and labels:

9. Do you use SDSs to communicate the hazards associated with dust explosions?
10. How is information on the hazards of, and controls for, dust explosions communicated to workers?

D. Standards

11. What standards or guides do you use to address explosible dusts in any manner (definition, testing, hazard recognition, hazard assessment, hazard communication, mitigation methods, emergency response, investigation, etc.)? Indicate if they are used throughout your industry. Please provide a copy (in English, if possible).
12. Concerning those you do business with (businesses in other countries, provinces, etc.), what conflicts have you experienced while addressing dust hazards? Please explain how you resolved the conflicts.