

## 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

24 November 2010

### Twentieth session

Geneva, 7–9 December 2010

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Programme of work for the biennium 2011–2012**

## Draft programme of work for the biennium 2011–2012

### Note by the secretariat

### Introduction

1. The secretariat has compiled in this document, for consideration of the Sub-Committee, the items in its programme of work for 2009–2010 which have not been completed during that period and which may need to be carried over during the next biennium together with the new items for which a request to be included in its work programme for 2011–2012 has already been made at the time of writing.

2. The Sub-Committee may wish to consider the proposed items as a basis for discussion of its programme of work for 2011–2012.

### Proposal

#### 1. Work on classification criteria and implementation classification issues

- (a) Explosives and related matters, including but no limited to, classification of desensitized explosives (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, paragraph 13).

For the work on classification of desensitized explosives:

Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee

Lead country: Germany

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/26 paragraphs 15-17

- (b) Corrosion to metals: Consider pitting corrosion and suitability of Test C.1 for solids<sup>1</sup>

Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee

Lead country: France

Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.16 (16th session)

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<sup>1</sup> Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010.

(c) Water activated toxicity<sup>1</sup>

Work on test method N.5 for the assessment of water activated toxicity, in relation to:

- the accurate and precise measurement of gas evolution rates for substances which in contact with water emit flammable or toxic gases;
- its possible application to substances which in contact with water emit corrosive gases;
- the improvement of the reproducibility of test results; and
- its suitability as a new method for the development of classification criteria, as appropriate.

Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee

Lead country: Germany

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/19, paragraph 6 and INF.18 (16th session) paragraph 8.

(d) Classification of oxidizing solids

- Improvement of Test method O.1 as regards:
  - the replacement of potassium bromate as the reference substance for the test by a less hazardous substance;
  - the use of a method based on a gravimetric procedure instead of the subjective measurement of the burning time as a more objective means of assessing the results;
- Interpretation of the concept of “known experience” as used in the context of the UN Model Regulations (Chapter 2.5, paragraph 2.5.2.1.1), the Manual of Tests and Criteria (section 34) and the GHS (Chapter 2.14, paragraph 2.14.4.2).
- Consideration of other factors that may have an influence in the classification results such as friability and particle size

Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/74, paragraphs 102–106 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, paragraph 18.

(e) Editorial revision of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 (skin corrosion/irritation)<sup>2</sup>

- Consider the detailed review documents prepared by the OECD expert groups during the development of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3;
- Editorially revise Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 to improve clarity and user-friendliness of the criteria;
- Examine whether particular criteria need further alignment/adjustment with respect to the internal consistency of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 and develop proposals for any minor necessary amendments;

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<sup>1</sup> Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010.

<sup>2</sup> Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010, as amended to take into account the extended mandate given to the group at the 19th session of the Sub-Committee.

- Provide guidance on the evaluation of data on skin and eye irritation from studies conducted with more than three animals;

Lead country: Germany

Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.42 (16th session); ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/22; ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, paragraph 27 and INF.41 (19th session)

- (f) Work of the informal correspondence group on practical classification issues on matters related to the classification of substances and mixtures<sup>1</sup>

Focal point: Informal correspondence group on practical classification issues

Lead country: United States of America

Terms of reference: INF.39 (16th session)

- (g) Corrosivity criteria: Further alignment of corrosivity criteria in Class 8 of the UN Model Regulations with the GHS criteria

Focal point: Joint (TDG-GHS) informal correspondence group on corrosivity criteria

Lead country: the Netherlands

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, paragraphs 71–72 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2010/85–ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2010/17<sup>3</sup>

- (h) Dust explosion hazards

Lead country: United States of America

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2010/8<sup>4</sup>

## 2. Proposals addressing hazard communication issues

- (a) Revision of section 9 of Annex 4 of the GHS

Focal point: Germany

Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, par. 38 and INF.40 (19th session)

- (b) Labelling of small packagings<sup>5</sup>

Development of guidance and/or examples on the application of the general principles for the labelling of small packagings

Lead organisation: CEFIC

Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/26, paragraph 5, as amended by INF.41 (16th session)

<sup>1</sup> Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010.

<sup>3</sup> Document to be considered by the TDG and the GHS sub-committees at its 38th and 20th sessions, respectively.

<sup>4</sup> Document to be considered by the Sub-Committee at its 20th session.

<sup>5</sup> Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010, as amended to take into account the progress made during the biennium.

(c) Improvement of Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS<sup>1</sup>

Pursue work to further improve Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS, following the work streams hereafter, with the first given priority:

- Work stream 1: to develop proposals to rationalize and improve the usability of hazard and precautionary statements, including proposals to eliminate redundancies among these statements;
- Work stream 2: to improve the presentation of Annexes 1 to 3 of the GHS, taking into account the intended audiences, uses and purposes of the GHS.

Lead country: United Kingdom

Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/24, par. 25, as amended.

### 3. Implementation issues

- (a) Consider any proposal addressing implementation issues (including, but not limited to, those resulting from the work of the informal correspondence group on implementation issues lead by Australia, as described in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/28, annex 2; ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/32, par.72)<sup>1</sup>.
- (b) Facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS in countries and monitor the status of implementation of the GHS<sup>1</sup>.
- (c) Cooperate with other bodies or international organizations responsible for the administration of international agreements and conventions dealing with the management of chemicals so as to give effect to the GHS through such instruments<sup>1</sup>.

### 4. Development of guidance on the application of the GHS criteria

- (a) Consider any proposal for the development of guidance on the application of GHS criteria
- (b) Work of the informal correspondence group on practical classification issues on matters related to the clarification of the application of the GHS criteria through, for example:
- development of examples illustrating application of criteria and any related hazard communication issues, as needed, and
  - development of guidance to address the needs of IMO as regards the information to be included in the SDS.

Focal point: Informal correspondence group on practical classification issues

Lead country: United States of America

Terms of reference: INF.39 (16th session) and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/38, paragraphs 73–76).

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<sup>1</sup> Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010.

## 5. Capacity building

Review reports on training and capacity-building activities<sup>1</sup>.

Provide assistance to United Nations programmes and specialized agencies involved in training and capacity-building activities, such as UNITAR, ILO, FAO and WHO/IPCS through the development of guidance materials, advice with respect to their training programmes and identification of available expertise and resources<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Item from the programme of work for 2009–2010.