

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 Transport of Dangerous Goods

25 June 2015

Forty-seventh session

Geneva, 22 – 26 June 2015

Item 10 (h) of the provisional agenda

**Issues relating to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals: joint work with the GHS Sub-Committee**

Programme of work – Joint TDG/GHS session

Extract from the report of the Committee on its 7th session

Submitted by the secretariat

Calendar of meetings

Informal document: INF.3 (Belgium, France and United Kingdom)

16. The Committee considered that all efforts should be made to avoid duplication of discussions in both sub-committees. The experience of sharing meeting time for joint discussion of the corrosivity criteria in the biennium 2013–2014 had proven to be successful for enhancing cooperation between the two sub-committees. The Committee felt that if the two sub-committees agreed to do so at their next session, they would have the opportunity to meet jointly for one full day at their second and third sessions in order to avoid duplication of work in relation to issues of common interest. This would lead experts of both sub-committees to participate in two additional meetings during the biennium, but would not entail any additional conference costs since it would not affect the global number of meetings allocated.

17. Informed by the secretariat about the availability of conference facilities, the Committee agreed that the schedule of meetings for 2015-2016 should then be as follows:

2015

22–26 June:	TDG Sub-Committee, 47th session (10 meetings)
29 June–1 July:	GHS Sub-Committee, 29th session (5 meetings)
30 November – 9 (morning) ¹ December:	TDG Sub-Committee, 48th session (15 meetings)
9 (afternoon) ⁴ – 11 December:	GHS Sub-Committee, 30th session (5 meetings)

Total:

TDG: 25 meetings⁴

GHS: 10 meetings⁴

¹ With possibility for both sub-committees to share the meetings allocated to their respective sessions for meeting jointly all day on 9 December 2015 and 6 July 2016.

2016

27 June – 6 (morning) ⁴ July:	TDG Sub-Committee, 49th session (15 meetings)
6 (afternoon) ⁴ – 8 July:	GHS Sub-Committee, 31st session (5 meetings)
28 November–6 December:	TDG Sub-Committee, 50th session (14 meetings)
7–9 (morning) December:	GHS Sub-Committee, 32nd session (5 meetings)
9 (afternoon) December:	Committee, 8th session (1 meeting)

Total:

TDG: 29 meetings⁴

GHS: 10 meetings⁴

Committee: 1 meeting

⁴ With possibility for both sub-committees to share the meetings allocated to their respective sessions for meeting jointly all day on 9 December 2015 and 6 July 2016.

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Seventh session

Geneva, 12 December 2014

12 December 2014

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for 2015-2016

Programme of work – Joint work of the sub committees on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Proposal by the experts from Belgium, France, and the United Kingdom

1. Noting that both subcommittees have approved work to be done on issues regarding physical hazards in inter-sessions working groups, and that the subcommittee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals has also invited the subcommittee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to act as the focal point on physical hazards and start a substantial amount work on several others subjects related to these hazards, noting also that this latter subcommittee would use its explosive working group to do some of that work, it appears beneficial to organize the work in such a way both subcommittees may examine the outcome of this work jointly.
2. If the programme of work is maintained as it is the work in progress would be presented first in the subcommittee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and then to the subcommittee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, at moments that will be separated by some time dedicated to other subjects (reports reading, and other items as defined in the respective agendas of both sub committees). Thus some discussion will be duplicated and it will be difficult to some experts of one subcommittee to participate in the discussions of the other subcommittee although they might have great interest in these discussions.
3. It is proposed to make a minor change to the meeting schedule in order to allow one day of joint meeting of both subcommittees. This would happen in December 2015 and July 2016 where the subcommittee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods stops Wednesday at noon and the subcommittee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals starts the afternoon.
4. There are two ways that could be envisaged:
 - (a) At both these sessions the subcommittee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods would end Wednesday evening and the subcommittee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals would start in the morning of the same day. That would allow the meetings of both subcommittees to overlap and to take place in the same room that day. It would be easy for experts to justify their travel as the agenda would communicate the new dates. Practically there would be no additional conference costs as the meeting room needs to be available anyway for the whole day.

- (b) Without changing the meeting dates the experts from the subcommittee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals would be invited to participate to the Wednesday morning meeting of the subcommittee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and vice versa in the afternoon meeting. This requires mentioning in the agendas of both subcommittees that experts of both subcommittees should participate in both sessions on that day.
5. Both options allow to meet jointly during one day to look the outcome of the working groups as appropriate. In addition both subcommittees would benefit from one half day more meeting time without additional conference costs. They seem therefore to be a better way to use the time allocated for meetings.
6. There is one consequence related to report reading requiring a change in current practice. For all discussions held before that date the report reading of the subcommittee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods would take place Tuesday afternoon, in order to not interrupt the joint work. The report reading concerning this joint part of the meeting even for the subcommittee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods could take place together with the report reading of the subcommittee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. The report of the subcommittee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods would then be completed by the secretariat with the missing part concerning the joint work. It is believed that the benefit of the proposed organisation is much greater than the inconvenience that this change in the report reading may cause.
7. These joint meetings would be alternatively be chaired by the chair persons of each subcommittees.
8. Concerning their agenda they could be adapted during the preceding sessions of the subcommittees keeping in mind that one day is short compared to the amount of work sent to the working groups, they would not reproduce the detailed discussions held within these working groups but approve their outcome and propose some instructions for these groups on how to continue their work.
9. The committee is invited to decide what option is preferred and endorse that new allocation of meeting time.
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