

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

23 November 2015

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods**

Forty-eighth session

Geneva, 30 November – 9 December 2015

Item 2 (h) of the provisional agenda

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

Thirtieth session

Geneva, 9–11 December 2015

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Status report on the work of the informal correspondence
group on the revision of GHS Chapter 2.1**

Transmitted by the expert from Sweden

1. At the 29:th session of the SCEGHS, the expert from Sweden presented INF. 13 suggesting how to tackle the issues raised by Australia in working document 15 to the 28:th session of the SCEGHS¹ regarding the revision of GHS Chapter 2.1 on Explosives. The document from Sweden sets up three Workstreams, each one addressing an identified problematic area.
2. Because the expert from Australia withdrew from leading the work², the expert from Sweden volunteered to take on this role instead – on the condition that it would be done in accordance with his layout as in INF. 13. This was accepted by the SCEGHS (see the report from that meeting³). The Chairman of the Explosives Working Group (EWG) under the SCETDG, who was present at that SCEGHS session, supported that decision.
3. Subsequently, the expert from Sweden asked interested parties to make themselves known to him, in order to set up the Informal Correspondence Group (ICG) referred to in the Terms of Reference for the work (see the report from the 28:th session of the SCEGHS⁴). The Chairman of the EWG extended this invitation to the EWG by email. These calls were indeed also answered by seventeen other experts, mainly from the EWG.
4. When the ICG was constituted, the expert from Sweden sent out an introductory email together with a table for each of the three Workstreams of INF.13, for initial ideas on how the corresponding problems could be solved. Comments were received by several of the members of the ICG – albeit not necessarily within the boundaries of the three Workstreams.
5. The expert from Sweden, in close collaboration with the Chairman of the EWG, has been analysing the comments made. Roughly speaking, the comments go in two directions, where one group of experts seek to define different types of explosives (e.g. high-explosives, pyrotechnics, propellants) and design appropriate labelling elements for them,

¹ Working document 79 to the 46:th session of the SCETDG

² See INF.8 to the 29:th session of the SCEGHS or INF.23 to the 47:th session of the SCETDG

³ Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/58

⁴ Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/56

while another group of experts seek to find a more general solution at the cost of less specific labelling.

6. The expert from Sweden has, in consultation with the Chairman of the EWG, devised the following fundamental principles for the solutions to be found, which have been put forward to the ICG for consideration:

- (a) No classification of new substances, mixtures or articles as explosives
- (b) No new classification procedures or new mandatory tests
- (c) Assigned GHS-labelling elements for all explosives
- (d) Keep it as simple as possible

7. While it is yet too soon to present it to the Sub-Committees, some draft wording for Chapter 2.1 of the GHS has also been devised and circulated within the ICG. The expert from Sweden has hope that the task at hand can be completed during the current biennium, and he would like to thank the members of the ICG, and the Chairman of the EWG in particular, for their fruitful and enthusiastic engagement in the discussions thus far.
