

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

3 December 2015

Thirtieth session

Geneva, 9-11 December 2015

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the GHS –Implementation issues

Assessing the potential development of a global list of classified chemicals

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America on behalf
of the informal correspondence group

Purpose

1. The purpose of this document is to provide an update on the work undertaken by the informal correspondence group assessing the potential development of a global list of classified chemicals, and an agenda for the group's meeting at the 30th Session.

Background and update

2. During the 28th Session, the Sub-Committee agreed to a plan of work in the pilot classification project, the three chemicals that would be evaluated in the pilot, and a provisional timeline for the project. (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/56, paragraphs 50-53; Inf. 22, 28th Sess.)

3. In the 29th Session, the Sub-Committee noted that the informal working group had been updated on the work done by the pilot project chemical sponsors on developing agreed data assessment and classification and labelling report forms and resources tracking forms. The Sub-Committee also agreed to a revised timetable for the pilot project.

4. Since that time:

- (a) the sponsor countries have completed their draft assessment and labelling reports, which were uploaded on the OECD website by 2 September 2015.
- (b) Comments were received from approximately 10 countries and organizations, and the comments were all uploaded to the OECD site by 5 November 2015.
- (c) The OECD has prepared comments summaries for each chemical. They show that 6 commenters provided a total of 217 discrete comments on the Dicyclopentadiene (DCPD) draft assessment; 7 commenters provided a total of 118 comments on the Di-n-butyl phthalate (DNBP) draft assessment; and 5 commenters provided a total of 38 comments on Dimethyltin dichloride (DMTC).
- (d) The chemical sponsors and OECD discussed by teleconference how to proceed to the next step of the pilot project and agreed as follows:

- (i) For DMTC, the sponsor (ECHA) will provide a written response to comments and make any revisions to the dossier by mid-December, and in mid-January hold a teleconference call with interested parties.
- (ii) For DCPD and DNBP, the sponsors (Russia and the United States, respectively) will provide written responses to the comments and make any revisions to the dossier by mid-February, and hold separate teleconferences on each chemical in mid to late March.
- (iii) In the teleconferences, the participants will discuss the sponsor's responses, and identify any outstanding issues for future discussion. Additional teleconferences, or a face-to-face meeting, will be scheduled as necessary.
- (iv) While consensus is the goal, it is possible that agreement by all participants might not be reached. If agreement for certain endpoints will not be reached this will be documented.

Agenda

5. Though the OECD is the lead on this phase of the pilot project, it may be useful to have a discussion in the working group about the report to be generated at the conclusion pilot project. Are there particular issues that the correspondence group believes the report should address? How should feedback from participants be received?

6. In addition, Canada has submitted a paper (Inf. 18) containing information about resources it uses to prepare GHS classifications as a part of confidential business information reviews, which is relevant to the goals of the pilot project. Other experts have expressed interest in discussing resources expended to date by participants in the pilot project. It may be useful to discuss these issues together.

7. The OECD has offered to present information to the GHS Sub-committee on the the eChemPortal and the IOMC Toolbox. This information may prove relevant and helpful to the future work the correspondence group, and because we have some time available on the agenda, it is suggested that the OECD will make the presentation during the correspondence group meeting.

8. Interested persons are invited to attend the meeting of the correspondence group in the plenary room during a break in the 30th Session of the Sub-Committee on the afternoon of December 10, 2015. The proposed agenda is as follows:

- (a) Introductions and overview of meeting.
- (b) Review of progress to date for the pilot classification exercise.
- (c) Discussion of the report and feedback on the exercise (see paragraph 5).
- (d) Inf. 18 and preliminary reflections on resources used in the pilot project (see paragraph 6).
- (e) Presentation by the OECD on the eChemPortal and the IOMC Toolbox