

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**

26 November 2018

Thirty-sixth session

Geneva, 5-7 December 2018

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda

Classification criteria and related hazard communication:

use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health hazards

Use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health hazards: Status report and proposed continuance of work

**Transmitted by the experts from the United Kingdom and the
Netherlands on behalf of the informal working group**

Introduction

1. This informal paper provides an update on the work performed by the informal working group on “Use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health hazards” since the thirty-fifth session of the Sub-Committee.

Background

2. The Sub-Committee agreed to keep the work on the use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health hazards on its programme of work for the 2017-2018 biennium (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/64). Information on the mandate/terms of reference of the correspondence group is in informal document INF.27/Rev.2 (thirty-first session) and the report of the Sub-Committee on its thirty-first session (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/62 paragraph 26).

3. The working group presently has approximately 50 members, reflecting the importance of, and interest in, its work. Its membership includes experts with specialised knowledge of test methods and their application to classification and experts on National legislation and their consequences. Discussions are often lively and detailed, but overall are propelled by a strong desire to make progress on the working group’s mandate and ensure that non-animal test methods are consistently incorporated in the GHS in a way that reflects their growing importance and scientific relevance, whilst recognising their limitations.

Status report

4. Since the last meeting of the Sub-committee in July 2018, the working group convened three times by webex (on 24 July, 7 September and 30 October 2018). After each meeting the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, joint leads, revised the draft text of Chapter 3.2 and prepared papers on specific topics to take forward the discussions taking into account written comments and information on specific topics provided by the participants.

5. A working draft was included in informal document INF.25, presented at the thirty-fifth session of the Sub-Committee in July 2018. The working group decided to continue their work on preparing a final draft to be submitted and presented for adoption by the Sub-Committee in December 2018. Revisions were discussed during the webex at 24 July and 7 September and resulted in document (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2018/29), which summarizes the work on Chapter 3.2, Skin Corrosion/Irritation. In addition, informal document INF.6 presents a revision of this Chapter.

6. After submission of the working document and informal paper as mentioned under point 5, the informal working group conducted a final review of the revised text of Chapter 3.2 and discussed their work during the webex on 30 October 2018. This resulted in a number of minor editorial changes and clarifications. These proposed changes and a reflection of the discussion are presented in INF.6 (Rev 1).

5 December 2018 meeting

7. The Working Group on non-animal test methods will continue its work in its meeting on 5 December July, 13:00 – 14:30 (CET), Room S4 (for the agenda see Annex I).

Annex I

Draft agenda

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

5 December 2018, 13:00 – 14:30 CET

Informal working group on use of non-animal testing methods for the classification of health hazards

Room S4

Suggested draft agenda: Working Group on Non-animal test methods

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Summary notes of the meeting on 30 October (document 1)
3. Remaining issues revision of Chapter 3.2 (document 2, 3 and 4)
4. Work streams next biennium:
 - (a) Revision eye irritation/corrosion (Chapter 3.3)
 - (b) Revision skin sensitisation (Chapter 3.4)
5. Next steps

Documents

For discussion:

1. Non-animal working group - draft note of webinar - 30 October 2018 document 1
 2. Working Document ST-SG-AC.10-C.4-2018-29e Revision Chapter 3.2 document 2
 3. INF.6 Revision Chapter 3.2 document 3
 4. INF.6 Rev 1 document 4
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