



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

Thirty-eighth session

Geneva, 11-13 December 2019

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda

Hazard communication: other issues

Corrections to hazard statements H410, H411 and H412

Note by the secretariat*

Introduction

1. An inconsistency between different linguistic versions of hazard statements H410, H411 and H412 has been brought to the attention of the secretariat. These hazard statements were introduced for the first time in the second revised edition of the GHS following a proposal from CEFIC on behalf of the correspondence working group on precautionary statements (see document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2006/8/Add.1)¹.
2. The proposal by CEFIC was originally submitted in English and the phrase “with long lasting effects” in hazard codes H410, H411 and H412, was translated into French at that time as “entraîne des effets **néfastes** à long terme” (i.e.: “with long lasting **harmful** effects”) thus creating an inconsistency between the English and French versions of these hazard statements. The same inconsistency was carried forward in the Spanish version, who followed the French translation and also refers to “long lasting **harmful** effects”.
3. These inconsistencies seem to be unjustified and due to a translation mistake. Should the Sub-Committee concur with this interpretation, the text of these hazard statements in all linguistic versions should be checked for consistency with the English version.
4. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the corrections to the French version in this document. As indicated above, the Spanish version also needs to be corrected. Russian, Chinese and Arabic speaking experts are invited to inform the secretariat whether a correction to the text of hazard statements H410, H411 and H412 in these languages is also necessary.

* In accordance with the request made by the Sub-Committee at its thirty-seventh session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/74, paragraph 53).

¹ See <http://www.unece.org/trans/areas-of-work/dangerous-goods/meetings-and-events/ecosoc-bodies/ghs-sub-committee/working-documents/2006.html>

Corrections

5. The corrections to the French version of hazard statements H410, H411 and H412 do not apply to the English version.
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