

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

10 December 2019

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

#### **Thirty-eighth session**

Geneva, 11-13 December 2019

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

#### **Implementation of the GHS: possible development of a list of chemicals classified in accordance with the GHS**

### **Global List informal correspondence group update**

#### **Transmitted by the United States and Canada on behalf of the informal correspondence group**

#### **Background and update**

1. At the thirty-seventh session, the Sub-Committee adopted the global list informal correspondence group's program of work (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/74 and informal document INF.10 (37<sup>th</sup> session)). The first two work streams on the program of work are to identify existing lists that implement the GHS and compare them with the guiding principles in Annex III to the report of the twenty-fourth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4.48). The goal of the guiding principles is to ensure that classifications are developed transparently, with stakeholder input, from publically-available and electronically-available data, and be non-binding.
2. At the meeting, the expert from Sweden indicated that the Swedish Chemicals Agency was in the process of commissioning a study that would incorporate the above-mentioned work items. The study would also include a review of GHS implementation status. At the time, the expert from Sweden anticipated that a draft matrix of existing lists could be presented to the working group at the thirty-eighth session, and that the study could be presented to the Sub-Committee at the thirty-ninth session.
3. Subsequently, Sweden learned that Cefic membership gathered information on the implementation of the GHS in specific countries and has compiled the information into a report. This report is referenced in UN/SCEGHS/38/INF.19.
4. Because this report closely resembled the study it intended to commission, the Swedish Chemicals Agency decided not to move forward with its own study as it was specified in the call for tender.

## Discussion

5. In light of recent developments, the informal correspondence group is invited to review the Cefic report and consider how the information might address the first work stream, *i.e.*, identifying existing lists that implement the GHS. The group may also consider whether additional work will need to be done to complete the first work stream.

6. Although the informal correspondence group will not be meeting at the thirty-eighth session, the co-chairs intend to schedule a teleconference call to discuss next steps. The Sub-Committee is invited to offer suggestions for completing the first work stream on the group's program of work.

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