

Annex II

PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE BIENNIUM 2009-2010

(a) Chemically unstable gases and gas mixtures

Pursue the work on the development of a proposal for the classification and labelling of chemically unstable gases and gas mixtures together with a test method to determine their chemical instability.

Focal point: Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Lead country: Germany

Terms of reference: see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/24 (par. 49 and Annex 2, item 2(a)(i)) and INF.19

(b) Explosives and related matters

(i) Continue the review of Test Series 7;

Focal point: Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Lead country: United Kingdom

Terms of reference: see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/26 par. 20

(ii) Pursue the work on a proposal for the classification of desensitized explosives (in cooperation with the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods)

Lead country: Germany

Terms of reference: see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/26 paras. 15-17

(c) Corrosion to metals

Consider pitting corrosion and suitability of Test C.1 for solids

Focal point: Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Lead country: France

Terms of reference: see INF.16

(d) Water activated toxicity

Pursue the work on test method N.5 for the assessment of water activated toxicity, in relation to:

- (i) the accurate and precise measurement of gas evolution rates for substances which in contact with water emit flammable or toxic gases;
- (ii) its possible application to substances which in contact with water emit corrosive gases;
- (iii) the improvement of the reproducibility of test results; and
- (iv) its suitability as a new method for the development of classification criteria, as appropriate.

Focal point: Sub-Committee of experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Lead country: Germany

Terms of reference: see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/19, paragraph 6 and INF.18 paragraph 8.

- (e) Editorial revision of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3
- (i) Consider the detailed review documents prepared by the OECD expert groups during the development of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3;
 - (ii) Editorially revise Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 to improve clarity and user-friendliness of the criteria;
 - (iii) Examine whether particular criteria need further alignment/adjustment with respect to the internal consistency of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 and develop proposals for any minor necessary amendments;

Lead country: Germany

Terms of reference: see INF.42 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/22

- (f) Issues related to the application of GHS criteria to the classification of substances and mixtures

To clarify application of the GHS criteria through, for example, development of proposals for changes to the GHS document or development of examples illustrating application of criteria and any related hazard communication issues, as needed.

Lead country: United States of America

Terms of reference: see INF.39

- (g) Implementation issues

Lead country: Australia

Terms of reference: see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/28, annex 2 and paragraph 72 of this report.

- (h) Improvement of Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS

Pursue work to further improve Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS, following the work streams hereafter, with the first given priority:

Work stream 1: to develop proposals to rationalize and improve the usability of hazard and precautionary statements, including proposals to eliminate redundancies among these statements;

Work stream 2: to improve the presentation of Annexes 1 to 3 of the GHS, taking into account the intended audiences, uses and purposes of the GHS.

Lead country: United Kingdom

Terms of reference: see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/24, par. 25, as amended

- (i) Labelling of small packagings (including work on packagings terminology/definitions)
 - (i) Development of guidance on the application of the general principles for the labelling of small packagings;
 - (ii) Review of the current terminology/definitions of means of containment and study of the needs of the different sectors and the cost-benefit impact of any proposed change.

Lead organisation: CEFIC

Terms of reference: see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/26, paragraph 5, as amended by INF.41

- (j) Continue the activities to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS in countries;
- (k) Continue the cooperation with the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for matters of common concerns;
- (l) Strengthen and increase cooperation with United Nations programmes, specialized agencies, regional, governmental and intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations responsible for the administration of international agreements and conventions dealing with the management of chemicals so as to give effect to the GHS through such instruments;
- (m) Review reports on training and capacity-building activities;
- (n) Provide assistance to United Nations programmes and specialized agencies involved in training and capacity-building activities, such as UNITAR, ILO, FAO and WHO/IPCS through the development of guidance materials, advice with respect to their training programmes and identification of available expertise and resources.
