

Annex 2

Programme of work of the Sub-Committee for the biennium 2007-2008

1. Continue activities to determine when guidance may be needed on the application of the GHS (e.g. to pursue a harmonized approach to the classification of petroleum substances).
2. Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:
 - (a) Work on physical hazards:
 - (i) Develop a proposal for the classification and labelling of chemically unstable gases including a test method intended to evaluate chemical instability of gases or gas mixtures (in cooperation with the Sub-committee of experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods);
 - (ii) Consider possible solutions to address the classification and labelling of substances having explosive properties and desensitized explosives (in cooperation with the Sub-committee of experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods);
 - (b) Work on health hazards:
 - (i) Pursue work on classification criteria for substances which, in contact with water, release toxic/corrosive gases;
 - (ii) Continue to examine the available information concerning strong versus weak sensitizers and, if appropriate, propose revisions to the classification criteria for respiratory and/or dermal sensitization (in cooperation with OECD);
 - (c) Work on environmental hazards:
 - (i) Complete the work on the improvement of the classification criteria to accommodate chronic toxicity to aquatic organisms (in cooperation with OECD);
 - (ii) Pursue the work on the development of criteria for the classification and labelling of substances hazardous for the terrestrial environment (in cooperation with OECD);
 - (iii) Complete the work on the development of classification and labelling criteria for ozone depleting substances and mixtures in cooperation with the

Conference of Parties to the Montreal Protocol (in cooperation with the OECD);

(iv) Complete the work on validation of the transformation/dissolution protocol (in cooperation with OECD);

(d) Work on hazard communication issues

(i) Pursue work to further improve annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the GHS, including consideration of the development of combined hazard statements and combined precautionary statements, and proposals to eliminate current redundancies in some precautionary statements;

(ii) Pursue work on guidance for the labelling of very small packagings;

3. GHS implementation

(a) Continue the activities to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS;

(b) Continue the cooperation with the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for matters of common concerns;

(c) 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;

(d) Review reports on training and capacity-building activities;

(e) 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;

(f) Continue to explore working relationship with WHO/IPCS to assist implementation of the GHS in relevant activities/instruments among global health partners.