

UN/CE TDG-GHS/2/INF.3

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

Second session
Geneva, 10 December 2004
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

WORK PROGRAMME

Programme of work of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals for the biennium 2005-2006

Note by the secretariat

I. Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:

(a) *Work on Health Hazards*

- (i) Pursue work on classification criteria for substances which, in contact with water, release toxic/corrosive gases;
- (ii) Continue the work on Toxic Gas Mixtures (TGM) (in cooperation with OECD);
- (iii) Examine the issue of sensitization/induction/elicitation and propose amendments to the criteria as appropriate (in cooperation with OECD);
- (iv) 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);
- (v) Pursue work on carcinogenicity potency estimation (in cooperation with OECD);
- (vi) Pursue work on developing guidance on the importance of different factors concerning criteria for carcinogenicity (in cooperation with OECD);
- (vii) Pursue work on amending the classification criteria for "toxic to reproduction" to develop guidance on appropriate parameters on relative potency of a chemical (in cooperation with OECD);

(b) *Work on Environmental Hazards*

- (i) Pursue work to further improve the classification scheme on chronic aquatic toxicity hazards (in cooperation with OECD);
- (ii) Continue to develop criteria for the classification and labelling of environmental terrestrial hazard;
- (iii) Develop a comparison of the existing systems of classification for Ozone Depleting Substances in cooperation with the Conference of Parties to the Montreal Protocol (in cooperation with the OECD);
- (iv) Complete work on validation of the transformation/dissolution protocol for metals (in cooperation with OECD);

(c) *Work on Hazard Communication issues*

- (i) Develop guidance on the interpretation of the building block approach;
- (ii) Discuss the need, and if appropriate develop proposal, for a hierarchy of labelling elements for chemicals presenting multiple hazards.

II. GHS implementation

- (a) Initiate activities to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS in Member Countries;
 - (b) Cooperate with the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for matters of common concerns;
 - (c) Cooperate with intergovernmental bodies responsible for the administration of international agreements and conventions dealing with chemicals management issues, in order to work out ways 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, and WHO/IPCS through the development of guidance materials, advice with respect to their training programmes and identification of available expertise and resources;
 - (f) Explore working relationship with WHO/IPCS to assist implementation of the GHS in relevant activities/instruments among global health partners.
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