

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

Ninth session, 11-13 July 2005
Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

Cooperation with other international organizations

Note by the secretariat

During the last meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT¹)), held in Geneva on 22 and 23 June, a document on "Material Safety Data Sheet Business Requirement Specification" was submitted for discussion ([TRADE/CEFACT/2005/23](#)).

The UNECE Secretariat noted that the business requirement specification² contained in that document was not in line with the GHS specifications for Material Safety Data Sheets (Chapter 1.5 and Annex 4 of the GHS).

As the GHS is intended to provide a basis for the harmonization of rules and regulations on chemicals at national, regional and worldwide level, the UNECE Secretariat submitted a document suggesting the revision of the proposed specifications to take account of the GHS (see document [TRADE/CEFACT/2005/23/Add.1](#) "Comments on TRADE/CEFACT/2005/23") together with document [TRADE/CEFACT/2005/32](#), which reproduced the full text of Annex 4 of the GHS.

The Plenary took note of document TRADE/CEFACT/2005/23 and requested the International Trade and Business Processes Permanent Group (TBG Group) to take into account the provisions and results of related work as laid down in the documents submitted by the UNECE Secretariat (TRADE/CEFACT/2005/23/Add.1 and TRADE/CEFACT/2005/32). The TBG was then requested to submit a revised Business Requirement Specification for review and approval of the Plenary (see [Decision 05-19](#))³.

¹ UN/CEFACT plenary documentation is available at:
http://www.unece.org/cefact/cf_plenary/plenary05/list_doc_05.htm

² The full text of the specification can be downloaded from the UN/CEFACT website at:
http://www.disa.org/cefact-groups/tbg/Docs/tbg1/brs_msds_tbg1_3_29.pdf

³ The decisions made at the 11th UN/CEFACT plenary session are available at:
http://www.unece.org/cefact/cf_plenary/plenary05/cf_05_misc7_Decisions.pdf