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**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

**REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION
(Geneva, 12 (p.m) -14 December 2007)**

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I. ATTENDANCE

1. The Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals held its fourteenth session from 12 to 14 December 2007, with Ms. Kim Headrick (Canada) as Chairperson and Mr. Roque Puiatti (Brazil) as Vice-Chairperson.

2. Experts from the following countries took part in the session: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

3. Under rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, observers from the following countries also took part: Cambodia, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Romania, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Uruguay.

4. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to the International Chemicals Management) (UNEP/SAICM), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and of the following specialized agencies were present: International Maritime Organization (IMO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

5. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented: European Commission and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations took part in the discussion of items of concern to their organizations: Association of European Adhesive and Sealant Manufacturers (FEICA); Compressed Gas Association (CGA); Dangerous Goods Advisory Council (DGAC), European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA), Industrial Federation of Paints and Coats of Mercosul (IFPCM), International Association of the Soap, Detergent and Maintenance Products Industry (AISE), International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME); Responsible Container Management Association of Southern Africa (RCMASA), Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI) and Soap and Detergent Association (SDA).

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (agenda item 1)

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/27 (Provisional agenda)
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/27/Add.1 (List of documents and annotations)

Informal document: INF.1 (List of documents under agenda item)

7. The Sub-Committee adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat after amending it to take account of informal documents INF.1 to INF.31/Rev.1.

8. The Chairperson informed the Sub-Committee that Mr. Gregory Moore would not be able to continue to attend the GHS meetings due to a change of his responsibilities at national level and that as a consequence the Sub-Committee would continue its work until the end of the current biennium with only one vice-chairperson.

9. The Sub-Committee acknowledged the contribution of Mr. Moore to the development of the GHS not only as one of the vice-chairpersons of the Sub-Committee but also as the Chairperson of the OECD Task Force on Classification and Labelling.

III. UPDATING OF THE SECOND REVISED EDITION OF THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS) (agenda item 2)

A. Physical hazards

1. Substances having explosives properties

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/6 (Secretariat)

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.13 (CEFIC)
UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.28 (Germany)
UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.29 (Secretariat)

10. The Sub-Committee endorsed the recommendation made by the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee) that the proposed amendments to Chapter 2.1 of the GHS which were intended to assess the explosive properties of substances and mixtures on the basis of the results of Tests Series 1 needed further consideration and decided to forward back the question to the TDG Sub-Committee.

2. Classification of gas mixtures as oxidizing

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/7 (EIGA)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.29 (Secretariat)

11. The Sub-Committee adopted the proposal from EIGA to add an explanatory note to the definition of oxidizing gases in chapters 1.2 and 2.4 of the GHS, as amended by the TDG Sub-Committee (see annex 1).

3. Desensitized explosives

Document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.7 (Germany)

12. The Sub-Committee took note of the invitation of the expert from Germany for an informal working group on desensitized explosives to be held in Berlin on 17 December 2007.

4. Chemically unstable gases

Document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.19 (Germany)

13. Regarding the outcome of the first meeting of the informal working group on chemically unstable gases, the expert from Germany explained that the working group had studied two alternative test methods (Accelerating Rate Calorimetry and a test method based on ISO 10156 and ASTM E 918 standards) and selected six different gases to be tested. She said that the working group expected that the results of the tests would provide the basis for the assessment of the suitability of the test methods.

14. She also informed the Sub-Committee that the working group intended to meet during the thirty-third session of the TDG Sub-Committee and to provide a progress report to the Sub-Committee at its fifteenth session.

5. Large-scale behaviour of fireworks

Document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.20 (Netherlands)

15. The expert from the Netherlands informed the Sub-Committee that a test performed in the framework of the project on the “Quantification and Control of the Hazards Associated with the Transport and Bulk Storage of Fireworks” (CHAF) had resulted in the unexpected mass explosion of a container filled with an article classified as 1.3G in accordance with Test Series 6.

16. Given that the assignment to a hazard division is based on the results of Test Series 6, and that Division 1.3 is intended to be assigned to explosives presenting a fire hazard but not a mass explosion hazard, the expert from the Netherlands considered that the procedure for the assignment of goods and articles to a hazard division needed to be examined further.

17. He invited all those who might be interested in this work to contact him with a view to participating in a meeting on this issue to be held in 2008 at a place and location to be determined.

B. Health hazards

1. Use of converted acute point estimate (cATpe) values

Document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.17 (Germany)

18. The expert from Germany explained that the use of the converted acute toxicity point estimate (cATpe) values given in chapter 3.1 (table 3.1.2) of the GHS for calculating the acute toxicity of mixtures resulted, in some cases, in the over-classification of the mixture (e.g.: mixtures made of Category 2 ingredients only, will be classified as Category 1 and dusts and mists containing Category 3 ingredients only, will be classified as Category 2).

19. The Sub-Committee asked the expert from Germany to submit an official document for the next session so that enough time may be allocated to study the issue and for expert consultations at national level.

2. Amendments to Chapter 3.10 (Section 3.10.1)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.23 (IPIECA)

20. There was some support for the proposal of amendment to section 3.10.1 and the representative of IPIECA was requested to submit a formal proposal to the fifteenth session taking account of the comments received.

3. Reference to in vitro skin corrosion tests in the Model Regulations for the transport of dangerous goods

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.29 (Secretariat)

21. Following the request of the TDG Sub-Committee, the Sub-Committee examined the proposed amendments to paragraph 2.8.2.4 of the Model Regulations, which aim at including a reference to OECD Guidelines 430, 431 and 435 as suitable in vitro testing methods for determining skin corrosion. However, the Sub-Committee could not take a decision on this issue since it was felt that additional background information on the scope and context of the proposal as well as more time was needed to consult with experts intersessionally.

22. The Sub-Committee asked the secretariat to submit an official document to the fifteenth session of the Sub-Committee, including the proposed text together with all the relevant background information. All experts were encouraged to ensure that the necessary consultations are conducted intersessionally in order to be in a position of making the appropriate recommendations to the TDG Sub-Committee at its thirty-third session.

4. Classification of strong versus weak sensitizers

23. The representative of the OECD said that the expert group had developed a proposal for revising the classification criteria in chapter 3.4 of the GHS which will be further discussed at the beginning of March and if agreed, will be submitted to the OECD Task Force on classification and labelling in April 2008 for approval.

C. Environmental hazards

1. Revision of chapter 4.1 and consequential amendments to annexes 1, 2, 3 and 9

Documents: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/8 (OECD)
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/9 (OECD)
ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/10 (OECD)

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.2 (OECD)
UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.3 (OECD)
UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.4 (OECD)

24. Although one delegation questioned the workability of the criteria in chapter 4.1 for the industry, due to their complexity, the majority of experts considered that appropriate guidance for its application was given in annexes 9 and 10 of the GHS and pointed out that industry representatives had participated actively in the development of the proposal.

25. The Sub-Committee adopted the proposed amendments to chapter 4.1 and annexes 1, 2, 3 without modifications. The proposal of amendment to annex 9 was adopted with an additional amendment to paragraph A9.2.3.4 (see annex 1).

2. Chemicals hazardous for the terrestrial environment

26. The representative of OECD said that the expert group intended to submit a draft report on the classification and labelling of chemicals hazardous for the terrestrial environment to the next meeting of the OECD Task Force on classification and labelling in April 2008 for comments and approval.

D. Annexes

1. Revision of annexes 1, 2 and 3

27. The expert from the United Kingdom informed the Sub-Committee that the informal correspondence group on the revision of annexes 1, 2 and 3 continued to work on the improvement of the annexes and on the further simplification of hazard and precautionary statements. He added that a draft document had been circulated for comments and that a report will be made to the Sub-Committee at its fifteenth session.

IV. HAZARD COMMUNICATION ISSUES (agenda item 3)

1. Labelling of very small packagings

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/12 (CEFIC)

28. On the question of whether or not a size (or volume) limit should be established to define what is to be considered a “very small packaging” as regards labelling, some experts were of the opinion that the determining factor should be the space available for affixing a label and not the size or capacity of the packaging itself.

29. It was recalled that the definition of label in the GHS allowed the use of accompanying or attached information material for hazard communication and that therefore, this information did not necessarily need to be affixed on the packaging itself if this was not feasible. However some experts expressed concerns about the possibility that this attached or accompanying information could be lost at some stage of the life cycle of the product.

30. A number of experts suggested that a possible way forward could be to prioritize the information that needs to be shown on the label, so that the hazard information related to the lowest hazard categories could be omitted if not enough space was left on the label. However, some experts felt that this could lead to “risk-hazard” labelling (in particular for consumer products) and pointed out that this was not the intent of the system. Others suggested that some very small packaging could be exempted from labelling requirements.

31. A few experts said that other factors such as the need to include information in several languages or the fact that the packaging might not be reusable (and therefore it might not be necessary to label it in the same way as if it was intended to be reused) should also be considered during the development of the proposal.

32. The representative of CEFIC welcomed the feedback provided by the Sub-committee and invited all interested experts to contribute to the work of the correspondence group.

2. Systematic approach for colours and appearance of pictograms (placards) according to GHS classification

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/13 (CTIF)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.29 (Secretariat)

33. The Sub-Committee concurred with the TDG Sub-Committee that the symbols could continue to be shown either in white or black on the pictograms which have a blue, red or green background.

V. DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE ON THE APPLICATION OF THE GHS CRITERIA (agenda item 4)

1. Application of the GHS criteria to petroleum substances

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.10 (IPIECA)

34. The representative of IPIECA highlighted some of the issues that may result in divergent classification of petroleum substances and said that IPIECA expected to submit a draft guidance document for the harmonized classification of these substances according to the GHS to the Sub-Committee for consideration in July 2008.

2. OECD workshop on the application of the GHS criteria to high production volume chemicals

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.15 (OECD)

35. The representative of OECD said that the results of the workshop showed that in general the application of the classification criteria in the pilot exercises worked well.

36. Some experts noted however that there were some recurrent issues for which a need for additional guidance had been identified in different instances and pointed out that the Sub-Committee should try to provide a harmonized solution to them. Others, on the contrary, considered that it would be preferable to gain more experience with the implementation of the system before considering starting the development of additional guidance.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS (agenda item 5)

A. Reports from governments or organizations

1. European Commission

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.18 (European Commission)

37. The representative of the European Commission explained that the GHS will be implemented in all countries of the European Union through a Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures.

38. It was noted that the scope of the regulation for supply and use included also the classification and labelling of biocides and pesticides.

39. Regarding the application of the building block approach, she said that the proposal included:

- all GHS hazard classes and categories except those which are not part of current EU legislation and which are not needed for consistency with transport of dangerous goods regulations (i.e: flammable liquids, category 4; acute toxicity, category 5; skin corrosion/irritation, category 3; aspiration hazard, category 2 and acute aquatic toxicity, categories 2 and 3); and
- hazard classes which are not yet developed in the GHS but which are already covered by the current EU legislation (e.g.: ozone depleting substances). However, it was made clear that once the GHS develop classification and labelling criteria for those hazard classes, the EU legislation will be amended accordingly to bring it into line with the GHS requirements.

40. Regarding the date of entry into force of the Regulation, the representative of the European Commission informed that it is expected that the proposal be agreed by June-July 2008 with a view to enable its entry into force by the end of 2008.

41. She recalled that the proposed deadline for the reclassification of substances according to the new regulation is 1 December 2010 and for mixtures 1 June 2015, but that it could be applied on a voluntary basis 20 days after of its entry into force.

42. The text of the proposed regulation is available in 23 languages on the Eur-Lex website (see INF.8).

43. Concerning transport of dangerous goods, the expert from Germany said that the new directive on transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland waterways had been adopted by the European Parliament and the Council and will be published soon in the Official Journal of the European Union.

2. Brazil

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.27 (Brazil)

44. The expert from Brazil informed the Sub-Committee that the review of Ordinance No.26 of the Ministry of Labour on hazard communication was being discussed in order to bring it into line with the GHS. He also provided a brief summary of past and future capacity building and training activities in his country and said that the Portuguese version of the first revised edition of the GHS was expected to be published in 2008.

45. Regarding the development of a methodology for comprehensibility testing based on Annex 6 of the GHS, he said that once completed, it will be made available in electronic form upon request.

3. Japan

46. The expert from Japan said that three GHS related projects were currently under way in his country: the standardization of the GHS; the review of the results of the classification project; and the creation of an electronic data source.

4. Cambodia

47. The observer from Cambodia informed the Sub-Committee that several training and awareness raising activities were being carried out in his country and that work on the development of national legislation for the implementation of the GHS was continuing.

5. Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein

48. The observer from Switzerland said that a study on the impact of GHS in different sectors revealed that most chemical companies, and in particular those having import or export activities were in favour of adopting the GHS classification and labelling provisions.

49. From a regulatory point of view, he said that the review of the Swiss chemical ordinance was under way and it was expected that a public consultation would be conducted in 2008.

50. The expert from Norway pointed out that the EU legislation concerning the application of the GHS would also apply to the three member States of the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein).

6. South Africa

51. The expert from South Africa informed the Sub-Committee that a draft legislation for GHS implementation was now open for public comments until the end of January 2008. She said that once promulgated, the legislation would allow a transitional period of 3 years for the classification of substances according to the GHS criteria and an additional 4 years for mixtures.

7. Uruguay

52. The observer from Uruguay said that the GHS was identified as one of the priorities of the national plan for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and added that his country will start in 2008 the development of a National Strategy for the implementation of the GHS in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the government of Switzerland.

8. Qatar

53. The expert from Qatar said that his country had already started the work for the effective implementation of the GHS and that it was expected that it would be completed within the next two years.

B. Cooperation with other international organizations

1. United Nations Environment Programme

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.9 (UNEP/SAICM Secretariat)
UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.30 (UNEP/SAICM Secretariat)

54. The representative of the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) presented an update on SAICM following its adoption in 2006 highlighting the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund.

55. The QSP Trust Fund is addressed to developing countries, least developed countries, Small Islands developing States and countries with economies in transition as well as to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The Trust Fund provides an opportunity to get financial resources for the national implementation of international agreements and initiatives related to the management of chemicals.

56. She added that the GHS is referred to in the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy with respect to knowledge and information and therefore any projects addressing GHS capacity building or implementation would be eligible for consideration under the QSP Trust Fund.

57. However, one expert pointed out that due to lack of coordination and exchange of information between the national SAICM Focal Point and other national administrations dealing with the management of chemicals in other sectors, national SAICM focal points did not always considered the GHS as a key tool for the effective implementation of SAICM. He also said that additional funding mechanisms would be needed for GHS implementation.

58. The representative of the SAICM secretariat encouraged participants in the Sub-Committee to improve the coordination between sectors at national level to avoid those difficulties.

59. She informed the Sub-Committee that the next round of applications for funding will close in March 2008 and invited those who might wish to apply for funds to contact the SAICM Secretariat for additional information and assistance.

2. World Health Organization

60. The Sub-Committee took note of the progress made in awareness raising on the GHS in poison centres worldwide as well as in the updating of the database of the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC) containing information on 1700 chemicals in 17 languages. It is expected that the updating be finalized and publicly available on the website before the end of 2008.

61. The representative of the WHO noted that progress on the WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides had been delayed due to resource constraints within the secretariat and concluded that a progress report would be provided to the Sub-Committee at its fifteenth session.

C. Other implementation issues

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/11 (Australia, Canada, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and the World Health Organization)

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.26 (Australia, Canada, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and the World Health Organization)

62. The expert from Australia presented a proposal to establish an informal working group on GHS implementation and the draft terms of reference for such a group.

63. Although some experts expressed concern about the increasing number of informal working groups on matters related to the work of the Sub-Committee, there was general support for the establishment of the informal working group on the condition that the group be open-ended and that the relevant proposals on how to solve specific implementation issues would be submitted to the Sub-committee to be discussed during the plenary sessions. This should not prevent countries from submitting feedback on implementation directly to the Sub-Committee.

64. Moreover, bearing in mind that some of the implementation issues might be related to transport and/or physical hazards and that the focal point in this respect is the TDG Sub-Committee, the Sub-Committee decided to adopt provisionally the draft terms of reference, as amended, and agreed that they should be brought to the attention of TDG Sub-Committee at its thirty-third session, for endorsement.

65. The provisionally adopted terms of reference are reproduced in annex 2 to this document.

Informal document : UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.24 (European Commission)

66. The Sub-Committee noted the implementation issues raised by the representative of the European Commission who sought feedback and views on how these issues might be addressed, either directly by the Sub-Committee or through the newly established informal working group on implementation issues, for discussion at the next session.

VII. CAPACITY BUILDING (agenda item 6)

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.16 (UNITAR)
UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.22 (UNITAR)

67. The representative from UNITAR updated the Sub-Committee about some of the current and future activities of UNITAR/ILO related to GHS capacity building such as a regional GHS workshop for West Africa to be held in April 2008; the circulation of a draft GHS introduction training course for comments; and the updating of UNITAR/ILO resource materials based on the feedback and experiences of the concluding projects in pilot countries.

68. Regarding the draft GHS introduction training course, she further informed that the course will eventually be expanded into a multimedia training package. The Sub-Committee was invited to provide comments to UNITAR on the content of the basis course (circulated as information document INF.22) before 15 February 2008.

69. In relation to the information on the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund provided by the representative of the SAICM Secretariat, she said that UNITAR would be willing to coordinate any GHS related QSP proposals.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 7)

1. Requests for consultative status

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.5 (Secretariat)
UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.6 (Secretariat)
UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.12 (Secretariat)

70. The Sub-Committee agreed to grant consultative status to the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME).

71. The decision concerning the request for consultative status from the British Fireworks Association and the US Fuel Cell Council was postponed given that no representatives from these organizations were present.

2. Draft summary record of the 16th meeting of the Task Force on Harmonization and Classification of Chemicals

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.8 (OCDE)

72. On the development of a proposal for the classification and labelling of ozone depleting chemicals, the representative of the OCDE said that a draft proposal was approved by the OECD Task Force on classification and labelling and was circulated to both Sub-Committees (TDG and GHS) and to the ozone Secretariat. She added that the proposal had already been submitted to the OECD Joint Meeting for declassification and that it would probably be submitted to the GHS Sub-Committee at its fifteenth session.

73. Regarding the work on the validation of the transformation/dissolution protocol, she said that the first report was expected for the July session of the Sub-Committee.

3. Schedule of meetings

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.11 (Canada)
UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.25 (Secretariat)

74. There was some support for the proposal of Canada to review meeting arrangements. However, it was noted that any decision on the current schedule would have significant consequences, not only for the organization of the sessions of Sub-Committee itself but also for the TDG Sub-Committee meeting, as well as several other transport related meetings in different international organizations and bodies.

75. Therefore, the Sub-Committee concurred with the TDG Sub-Committee that the advantages and disadvantages of each of the proposed options needed to be considered on the basis of written proposal and in consultation with the TDG Sub-Committee, the secretariat and other international organizations concerned. The expert from Canada said that she would prepare a document for this purpose.

4. ECOSOC resolution

Informal document: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.14 (Secretariat)

76. The Sub-Committee took note of ECOSOC resolution 2007/6, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2007.

5. Biennial evaluation for 2008-2009

Informal documents: UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.21
UN/SCEGHS/14/INF.31 and INF.31/Rev.1 (Secretariat)

77. The Sub-Committee agreed on the following expected accomplishments and performance indicators for the biennial evaluation for 2008-2009:

(a) Expected accomplishment

Development and review of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), as necessary, to ensure its continued relevance and practical utility (including, when deemed appropriate, the development of additional guidance on its interpretation and use to support consistency of application) and monitoring the worldwide implementation of the GHS. The GHS should provide the basis for the harmonization of rules and regulations on chemicals at national, regional and worldwide level with the aim to enhance the protection of human health and the environment during the handling, transport, storage and use of chemicals.

(b) Performance indicators

1. Number of international legal instruments, codes, guidelines or standards that have been adopted or amended to reflect the provisions of the GHS;
2. Number of governments having reflected the provisions of the GHS or amendments thereto in their national regulatory systems applicable to the classification and labelling of chemicals in sectors other than transport;
3. One set of amendments to the GHS adopted in 2008 demonstrating completion of activities expected to be completed by the end of 2008 in the 2007-2008 programme of work (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/24, annex 2, items 2 (c)(ii), 2(c)(iii), 2(c)(iv)).

IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (agenda item 8)

78. The Sub-Committee adopted the report on its fourteenth session and the annexes thereto on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Annex 1

Draft amendments to the second revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

PART 2

Chapter 2.4

2.4.1 Replace current note under table 2.4 with the following:

"NOTE: "Gases which cause or contribute to the combustion of other material more than air" means pure gases or gas mixtures with an oxidizing power greater than 23.5% as determined by a method specified in ISO 10156:1996 or 10156-2:2005".

Consequential amendment to chapter 1.2: Add the same note after the definition of oxidizing gases.

(Ref. Doc.: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/7 as amended))

PART 4

Chapter 4.1

Amend in accordance with the proposal in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/8, which was adopted without modifications.

ANNEXES

Annexes 1, 2 and 3

Amend in accordance with the proposal in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/9, which was adopted without modifications.

Annex 9

Amend in accordance with the proposal in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2007/10, with the following additional modification:

A9.2.3.4 Amend the second sentence to read as follows:

"Substances rapidly biodegrading that show acute toxicity with a significant degree of bioaccumulation will normally show chronic toxicity at a significantly lower concentration."

Annex 2

Provisionally adopted¹ terms of reference for the informal working group on GHS implementation issues

[Tasks: To contribute to the role of the Sub-Committee to assist countries in implementing the GHS in a consistent and timely manner by:

1. Facilitating exchange of information relating to GHS implementation in countries;
2. Providing a forum for discussion for particular issues faced by specific sectors and allowing the sharing of information from experiences on sector-specific GHS implementation dealing with, for example, consumer chemicals, transport, workplace, etc. This should not prevent each country submitting their implementation issues directly to the Sub-Committee. If transport-related issues are identified, these will be referred to the TDG Sub-Committee;
3. Identifying general issues arising in the implementation of the GHS, such as building block approaches, problems relating to specific hazard classes or categories, transitional arrangements, and training;
4. Analysing and summarising issues identified on the implementation of the GHS. If possible, suggestions for how such issues can be addressed in a harmonized way will be submitted to the Sub-Committees for their consideration and resolution.

Lead country: Australia

Membership: Current participants are Australia, Canada, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the World Health Organization. Membership is open to other experts, observers and intergovernmental organizations by expression of interest to the lead country.

Schedule: A meeting by correspondence and/or by teleconference (depending on the size of the working group) will be organized between sessions and a face-to-face meeting of the informal group held in the margins of each Sub-Committee session. Participants in the work of the informal working group can also take the opportunity to meet in the margins of other international meetings.

Course of action: A report of issues from the informal working group will be presented to the Sub-Committee at each session.]

¹ *Note by the secretariat: Pending final endorsement by the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods at its thirty-second session (July 2008).*