

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for 2013-2014

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

Note by the Secretariat

1. Classification criteria

- (a) Explosives and related matters (including classification of desensitized explosives)
Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee
For classification of desensitized explosives:
Lead country: Germany
Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/46 (paragraph 8)
- (b) Revision of the test methods in Parts I and II of the Manual of Tests and Criteria
Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee
Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/46 (paragraph 13), and INF.10 (paragraph 5) submitted at the 23rd session of the Sub-Committee.
- (c) Corrosion to metals
Consider pitting corrosion and suitability of Test C.1 for solids
Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee
Lead country: France
Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.16 (16th session)
- (d) Water activated toxicity
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: TDG Sub-Committee

Lead country: Germany

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/40 (Annex II) and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...]

- (e) Evaluation of classification criteria and flammability categories for certain refrigerants

Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee

Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.13 (24th session) and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...]

- (f) Classification and testing of oxidizing solids

Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee

Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...]

- (g) Practical classification issues

Focal point: Informal working group on practical classification issues

Lead country: United States of America

Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.34 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...].

- (h) Corrosivity criteria: Further alignment of corrosivity criteria in Class 8 of the UN Model Regulations with the GHS criteria

- (i) Verify the definition of “skin destruction” as mentioned in the Model Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods complemented with references to the OECD test guidelines. If the definition is not aligned with paragraph 3.2.2.1.1 in Chapter 3.2 of the GHS, propose appropriate improvements;

- (ii) Identify and analyse the discrepancies between assignment to sub-categories 1A, 1B and 1C, based on in vitro and in vivo testing and alternative approaches (bridging principles, mixtures calculations, pH...);

- (iii) Identify differences in assignment to categories in lists provided by different regulations and guidance documents for a few representative common substances. Analyse the underlying data and origin of these differences and use these results for the work under sub-paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iv);

- (iv) Check the way OECD guidelines are referenced and their relevance;

- (v) Report findings and make recommendations that meet the needs of all sectors with the aim of achieving consistent classification outcomes for skin corrosivity;

Focal point: Joint (TDG-GHS) informal working group on corrosivity criteria

Coordinator: United Kingdom

Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.16 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...].

- (i) Dust explosion hazards

Lead country: United States of America

Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.37 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...]

- (j) Aspiration hazard: viscosity criterion for classification of mixtures
Lead organization: IPPIC
Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.22 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...].
- (k) Nanomaterials
Take into account the progress of international scientific work to review the applicability of the GHS to manufactured nanomaterials, if necessary.
Lead country: France
Mandate/Terms of reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...].
- (l) Classification of polymerizing substances
Focal point: TDG Sub-Committee
Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.29 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...].

2. Hazard communication issues

- (a) Revision of section 9 of Annex 4 of the GHS
Lead country: Germany
Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.36 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...].
- (b) Labelling of small packagings
Development of guidance and/or examples on the application of the general principles for the labelling of small packagings
Lead organization: CEFIC
Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.21 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...].
- (c) Improvement of annexes 1-3 and further rationalisation of precautionary statements
- (i) Work stream 1: to develop proposals to rationalize and improve the usability of hazard and precautionary statements. These may include proposals to eliminate redundancies among these statements, and proposals for further guidance and precedence rules for use of the statements.
- (ii) Work stream 2: to address any other issues relating to Annexes 1-3 and the use of hazard and precautionary statements that the Subcommittee wishes to refer to the informal correspondence group.
Lead country: United Kingdom
Mandate/Terms of reference: Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2012/19 (paragraph 12) and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...].

3. Implementation issues

- (a) Assessing the possible development of a list of chemicals classified in accordance with the GHS

Lead country: United States of America

Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.39 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...].

- (b) Facilitate the coordinated implementation of the GHS in countries and monitor the status of implementation of the GHS
- (c) Cooperate with other bodies or international 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

4. Guidance on the application of the GHS criteria

- (a) Development of examples illustrating application of criteria and any related hazard communication issues, as needed

Focal point: Informal correspondence group on practical classification issues

Lead country: United States of America

Terms of reference: INF.34 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...].

- (b) Alignment of guidance in Annex 9 (section A9.7) and Annex 10 of the GHS with the criteria in Chapter 4.1

Lead organization: ICMM

Mandate/Terms of reference: INF.25 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/48 par. [...].

5. Capacity building

- (a) Review reports on training and capacity-building activities
- (b) 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
