

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**

14 December 2012

Twenty-fourth session

Geneva, 12 – 14 December 2012

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for the biennium 2013–2014

Programme of work: assessing the potential development of a global list of classified chemicals

**Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America on behalf
of the informal correspondence group on practical classification issues**

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to present a proposal for the ongoing work of the informal correspondence group on the development of a global list of classified chemicals.

Background

2. During the 20th session of the Sub-committee, this working group was charged with considering the following three items (Terms of Reference: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2010/20 (paragraph 12)):

- (a) Establishing a set of principles to guide the development of a global list of GHS classified chemicals
- (b) What chemicals should be the focus of work for classification according to the GHS, considering those chemicals possessing hazards of serious health, physical and/or environmental concern; those most commonly used and transported worldwide; and which end-points should be covered; and
- (c) The interim steps such as the development of a proposal on functionalities that would increase the efficacy of the OECD eChemPortal regarding the current GHS classification of chemicals in existing lists.

3. During the biennium 2011-2012, the informal group completed the 1st and the 3rd items of the terms of reference.

4. Developing a pilot program will lay the groundwork for establishing a future programme of work. As part of the programme of work for 2012-2013, this group can work through the process of analysing the pilot group of chemicals in order to develop a systematic approach for review by the Sub-Committee in assessing the potential development of a global list.

Proposal

5. It is proposed to proceed by initiating a pilot program to explore how the guiding principles can be applied and adjust if necessary, as well as what resources would be necessary if a global list would be developed. Below is a potential outline for the program work for the next biennium:

- (a) Develop a strategy for choosing chemicals for the pilot program, including considering whether the any of the following factors should be used in the selection: extent of use, volume of production, amount and quality of data, conflicting classifications in existing lists, and any other relevant considerations
 - (b) Choose a small number of chemicals for the pilot program, and seek consensus on harmonized classifications for each.
 - (c) Evaluate this exercise in light of the guiding principles.
6. The proposal includes exploring two approaches to:
- (a) Compare classification of existing lists and examine how and why they may differ;
 - (b) Gather hazard information on selected chemicals and perform a hazard analysis and determine the hazard classification.
