

## **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**

**2 December 2013**

**Twenty-sixth session**

Geneva, 4 – 6 December 2013

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Capacity building**

### **RPMASA GHS awareness raising and capacity building activities in partnership with UNITAR (with reference to INF.7, para 10)**

#### **Transmitted by the Responsible Packaging Association of Southern Africa (RPMASA)**

1. This document provides information on the RPMASA activities related to awareness raising and capacity building. Between May and October 2013, the Responsible Packaging Management Association of Southern Africa (RPMASA) conducted six introductory GHS training sessions in South Africa using UNITAR/ILO materials. RPMASA thanks UNITAR for its' partnering and encouragement to build capacity in our region.

#### **Capacity building courses**

2. Two x 2 day GHS courses were presented in Gauteng for Government Representatives from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Countries in May 2013 to support the SADC Policy for GHS implementation in all 16 SADC Countries by January 2020. The training was sponsored by the "Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt" (PTB) of Germany to enable the various country Representatives to travel to South Africa.

3. Three x one day GHS courses were presented in KwaZulu Natal

One in partnership with the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry

One in partnership with the Durban Chemicals Cluster, and

One for the Durban City Environmental Health Department

4. An open course was also presented for industry in Gauteng

5. RPMASA has further Introductory, and Advanced Training Courses planned for 2014 and following its experience on the urgent needs for training and capacity building in South Africa and SADC, is now working on introducing Train the Trainer Courses during 2014.

6. The South African National Department of Environment gazetted its Waste Classification Regulations in August 2013 (after 3 years draft) requiring Industry to classify its waste, and produce SDS, using the GHS for immediate implementation with 18 month phase in.

7. This together with the pending Regulations from the National Dept of Labour, the SADC GHS Policy, the need for industry to comply with export requirements as well as understand GHS markings on imports has created an urgency for capacity building in both Government and Industry Sectors, as well as a need to educate the public

### **Awareness Raising Materials**

8. RPMASA has developed a series of GHS posters to aid raising awareness, and training people on what the GHS encompasses, what it means to different sectors, and how it relates to the transport regulations and the well known transport warning diamonds – see [www.rpmasa.org.za](http://www.rpmasa.org.za) .

---