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INFORMATION PAPER (Transmitted by the Chairman)

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE 6th MEETING OF THE OECD EXPERT GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR CHEMICAL MIXTURES

The meeting took place at the OECD Headquarters (Paris) from 29 to 31 May 2000.

After the approval of the Agenda and of the report of the previous meeting, the revised “Step 2 Proposal for Harmonised Classification Criteria for Mixtures” was discussed.

With regard to acute toxicity, the following approach was generally agreed:

- 1) If test data are available, classify on that basis;
- 2) If test data are not available, but sufficient data are available for similar mixtures, apply the bridging principles (for instance: dilution with a diluent with lower toxicity, etc);
- 3) If not, but LD (LC) 50 data are available for all the components, a formula derived from the UN Recommendations will be used, ignoring components with a concentration lower than 1%;
- 4) If point values of LD (LC) 50 are not available, but range estimates (giving the range pertaining to a hazard level) are available, a conventional value (in the order of half of the higher value of the range defining the hazard level) can be assumed;
- 5) If not, but evaluation of LD (LC) 50 is possible on the basis of supplemental technical information by highly trained and experienced experts, use this evaluation;
- 6) If data concerning some components (with concentration higher than 1%) are not available, the mixture will be classified on the basis of the formula, referring to the known components, and indicating the % of components of unknown toxicity.

It was also agreed that non-toxic components (like water) will not be taken into account (or, alternatively, a very high LD (LC) 50 value will be assumed).

For skin (and eye) corrosion (and irritation) the tendency is in favour of a cut-off value of 10% (a mixture with a corrosive ingredient in concentration lower than 10% will not be classified as corrosive): in case of more than one component the total concentration will also be taken into account.

For the hazard to aquatic environment, the proposal is in favour of one (or more) cut-off value in terms of concentration.

A final proposal is expected for July, to be submitted to the Joint Meeting of OECD in Autumn.
