

GLOBAL HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

Physical hazards

Criteria for classification of aerosols as flammable

Transmitted by the expert from France

The expert of France welcomes the effort made by European and American industries to reach a consensus paper of testing method for the flammability of aerosols.

Nevertheless there is still progress to make on the interpretation of these tests and the classification criteria.

In order to facilitate a compromise during this session of the Sub-Committee following criteria are proposed for the classification for supply and use :

Risk level	SPRAYS	FOAMS
extremely flammable	45cm < ignition distance or spraying time < 50s/m ³ or a flashback is obtained at any degree of valve opening and the flash point of the base product is less than -5°C or the aerosol contains 85% or more of constituents having a flash point of 93°C or below and the heat of combustion is greater than 95% ethanol	the aerosol contains 85% or more of constituents having a flash point of 93°C or below and the heat of combustion is greater than 95% ethanol
highly flammable	ignition distance < 45cm and 50 < spraying time < 100s/m ³	15cm < flame height or duration of combustion > 5s
flammable	ignition distance < 30cm and 100 < spraying time < 150s/m ³	7cm < flame height < 15cm and 2s < duration of combustion < 5s

This proposal includes limits based on the draft annex of European directive and the proposal of USDOT concerning highly flammable aerosols.

The Committee is invited to consider keeping three categories for flammable aerosols in the GHS even if it might not be useful in all cases, because it is always possible to merge two categories downstream, but not the opposite. (the same principle has been adopted for toxicity).