

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

Eighth session, 7-9 December, 2004
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

Progress in the implementation of the GHS in Japan/Updating

Transmitted by the expert from Japan

Japan has been working for GHS implementation by 2006, towards the non-binding target in APEC, and launched the following works.

1. The Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS) for Safety Data Sheets (SDS) is currently based on ISO standards. Japan has been working for the revision of the format of the JIS in order to bring into line with the GHS format, and will complete the revision by the spring of 2006.
2. Related Ministries concluded that the results on classification of the hazardous substances for which SDS shall be provided, based on three laws, should be disclosed to the public by the Government. Therefore, Japan has been preparing in order to classify these substances based on the GHS from the next fiscal year, 2005, at the earliest.
3. Classification results for a substance could vary, depending on judgements by experts and selection methods of data based on the current GHS. Therefore, Japan has been working on drafting a manual which provides unified guidance in preparation for the national classification work.
4. Japan is considering showing the classification results and the manual at fora such as the Sub-Committee and sharing the information with other countries when the manual is completed in the near future.
