

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
(7 (p.m.)-9 December 2005)

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TENTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 14.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 7 December 2005

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with established practice, the first item on the agenda is its adoption on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/19) and information documents UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.1 and UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.2, containing the list of documents under agenda item.

2. Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

(a) Physical hazards

At the ninth session of the Sub-Committee, the Expert from Germany raised a number of issues concerning physical hazards which have not been correctly addressed in the GHS in an information document. The Sub-Committee did not object to the principle to work on such issues but noted that a final decision had to be taken at the December session on the basis of a formal proposal. In that regard, the Expert from Germany has submitted document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2005/5, for consideration by the Sub-Committee at its tenth session.

(b) Health hazards

The OECD has submitted document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2005/10 on respiratory and skin sensitization, following the mandate given by the Sub-Committee to the OECD in December 2002 (“to examine the issue of elicitation and induction and propose amendments to the criteria as appropriate”). The Sub-Committee may wish to take a decision on the proposal for amendment of Chapter 3.4. Information document UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.3 reproduces the text of Chapter 3.4, with the amendments proposed in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2005/10.

The Sub-Committee may also wish to consider document UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.19 submitted by the expert from Germany, containing proposals for amendment of notes 1, 3 and 5 to table 3.4.1 in Chapter 3.4 and decision logics 3.4.5.1 and 3.4.5.2.

The representative of the OECD will present also the report and conclusions of the OECD Technical Focal Point on health hazards concerning the status of the carcinogenicity potency estimation methods (UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.4). The Sub-Committee may wish to decide whether or not the work on this issue should be discontinued for the time being.

(c) Environmental hazards

No document has been submitted under this agenda item.

(d) Others

The Sub-Committee may wish to consider document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2005/7, containing proposals to amend Annex 4 of the GHS "Guidance on the preparation of SDS's" submitted by CTIF. The proposed amendments aim at improving the information addressed to emergency responders when dealing with incidents occurring at fixed facilities where information mandatory in transport is not available.

The Secretariat will present document UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.6 on the problems of interpretation of the terminology used through Chapters 3.8 and 3.9 of the GHS which were encountered during the translation of the original text from English into other official UN languages. The Sub-Committee will be invited to clarify the meaning of the terminology used.

The Sub-Committee may wish to consider the draft corrigenda to the English and French versions of the first revised edition of the GHS submitted by the secretariat (documents UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.20 and UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.21).

3. Hazard communication issues

(a) Hierarchy of labelling elements

The Sub-Committee may wish to consider the joint proposal from the Chairperson and the expert from Australia (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2005/8), together with information document UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.7 from CEFIC, on codification of hazard and precautionary statements.

(b) Building block approach: guidance and implementation

The Sub-Committee may wish to consider document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2005/6 (Canada) together with UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.9 (South Africa) and UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.13 (Sweden) on the insertion of new text in Chapter 1.1 of the GHS as guidance for the implementation of the building block approach.

(c) Miscellaneous proposals

The representative of CEFIC will present to the Sub-Committee a document (UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.8) compiling the answers given by different countries to the questionnaire on current provisions in existing systems for the labelling of very small packagings.

The expert from Australia will present a proposal for the codification of GHS hazards and categories, as contained in document UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.15.

4. Implementation of the GHS

(a) Reports from Governments or organizations

The Sub-Committee will be informed of the results of a EU/USA pilot project for the classification, preparation of SDS's and establishment of control banding approaches at the workplace, for two chemicals (methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) and glutaraldehyde) according to GHS criteria. The information is contained in document UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.5 (Germany/USA).

The experts from South Africa (UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.11), Japan (UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.12), Australia (UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.14) and Brazil (UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.18) will update the Sub-Committee on the status of GHS implementation in their respective countries and the Secretariat will provide an update on GHS implementation through transport of dangerous goods regulations (UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.16).

Other experts, observers and organizations may wish to update the Sub-Committee about progress in the GHS implementation in their respective countries or areas of work.

(b) Cooperation with other international organizations

Other international organizations may wish to inform the Sub-Committee of recent developments in their field regarding the GHS.

(c) Miscellaneous proposals

The expert from South Africa will present document UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.10 on the challenges for the implementation of the GHS which have been identified in her country. The Sub-Committee will be invited to consider the proposals contained in the above- mentioned document.

5. Capacity building

Experts, observers and international organizations concerned, such as UNITAR (UN/SCEGHS/10/INF.17), ILO, OECD and WHO, may wish to inform the Sub-Committee of any capacity-building activities or projects undertaken in relation to the GHS.

6. Coordination and work programme

No document has been submitted under this agenda item.

7. Other business

The Sub-Committee will be informed about the ECOSOC's resolution 2005/53, adopted by the Council on 27 July 2005, on the work of the Committee of Experts on the TDG and on the GHS, which has been reproduced in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2005/9.

8. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Sub-Committee may wish to adopt the report on its tenth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.
