



Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2008/49
14 April 2008

Original: ENGLISH

**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
Transport of Dangerous Goods

Thirty-third session
Geneva, 30 June-9 July (a.m.) 2008
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

LISTING, CLASSIFICATION AND PACKING

Data for identification of substances which are toxic by inhalation.

Submitted by the expert from the Netherlands*

Introduction

1. In December 2006 the expert from the United States of America submitted document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2006/93 concerning portable tank assignments for toxic by inhalation substances. A list of TIH substances was included and on that basis it was discussed which substances should be considered to be toxic by inhalation. A lunch working group reviewed the proposals and the results were presented in informal document UN/SCETDG/30/INF.74 of December 2006. The working group requested that more specific data on substances with a data source other than the Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances (RTECS) should be presented. In informal document INF.74 these substances were retained in strike-out text in order to facilitate future work.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2007-2008 approved by the Committee at its third session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/60 para. 100 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/34, para. 14).

Importance to identify TIH substances.

2. In view of the expert from the Netherlands it is important to identify TIH substances in order to develop a comprehensive approach for these substances. A rationalized approach should be developed for the transport requirements such as the packing instructions and the tank instructions. It is also important to identify substances as toxic by inhalation for other transport requirements such as routing and tunnel restrictions for dangerous goods.

Goal of the project.

3. The goal of this project was to gather more information on the substances (indicated in INF. 74) for which insufficient information has been available in order to decide whether they fulfil the criteria for classification in division 6.1 for toxic by inhalation substances. The Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu; RIVM) was asked to collect data from available sources. The RIVM is an independent governmental research institution with expertise in the fields of health, nutrition and environmental protection and has a long-standing tradition of participation in international collaborations.

4. The project report will be made available as an information paper.

Results

5. Publicly available information sources were used to find useful vapour pressure and/or acute inhalation LC50 values for 41 substances.

6. For 28 substances, vapour pressure and LC50 values were found meeting the classification criteria specified for substances that are toxic by inhalation in section 2.6.2.2 of the UN Model Regulation on Transport of Dangerous Goods.

7. All of these 28 substances are meeting the criteria for class 6.1 and most of them could be assigned to packing group I.

8. Out of the 13 substances for which no information could be found, 7 are isocyanates. Sufficient information for classification was found for 2 other related isocyanates. By using read-across and category approaches, where the unknown toxicity of a new substance is presumed equal to that of similar compounds with known toxic effects, the classification of the seven isocyanates with no information can also be estimated.

Proposal.

9. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the data in order to identify substances which are toxic by inhalation.
