

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

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

Status of implementation of the GHS in Brazil

Transmitted by the expert from Brazil

1. Introduction

The Brazilian government, through its Ministries, Agencies, Institutions and Foundations is working towards the implementation of the GHS. This task started in 2001 and since then dozens of activities were developed: Non-governmental organization, particularly from industry, developed many activities over the last few years: organization of events, elaboration of GHS informational material, impact analysis studies, etc.

2. GT-GHS Brazil

The President of Brazil signed a Decree in 26th July 2007 formalizing the GT-GHS Working Group, which will have the responsibility to elaborate and propose strategies, guidelines, programs and plans of action.

In the second semester of 2009 three meetings took place in Brasilia (12th August, 8th and 9th October, 26th November).

In the October meeting industry associations (chemical, pesticide, etc.) were invited to present the state of awareness on GHS in its sector and also discuss the model of implementation.

3. Translation of the Purple Book into Portuguese

The process of translation of the Purple Book into Portuguese, sponsored by The Ministry of Health, is continuing.

In the second semester of 2009 two meetings took place in Brasilia for the harmonization of the translation of expressions and certain words, with the participation of more than 12 governmental and private institutions.

The work is now complete and will soon be published for public comments.

4. Brazilian GHS standards

Last September the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT) published the standards based on GHS: NBR 14725, which is divided into four parts. Part 1 deals with Terminology, part 2 with Classification, part 3 with Labeling and part 4 with the Safety Data Sheets.

The publication is a major step in the implementation of GHS in Brazil.

5. International cooperation

Under the umbrella of cooperation program on Environmental Health Surveillance between The Ministry of Health of Brazil and its counterpart in Uruguay, a training course on GHS will take place from 14th to 18th December 2009, in Montevideo. The program is sponsored by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and is planned to train 30 specialists from various Ministries and Agencies (health, labour, trade, environment, transport, etc.). The one-week course is based on the Brazilian experience of five GHS training courses. Four specialists on GHS will be the lecturers (Andre Fenner, Gilmar Trivellato, Neli Magnanelli and Roque Puiatti).
