

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

1 November 2012

Forty-second session

Geneva, 3 – 11 December 2012

Item 8 (e) of the provisional agenda

Issues relating to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:

Miscellaneous

Consequential amendments to Chapter 2.9 of the Model Regulations resulting from the corrections proposed in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2012/24

Transmitted by the experts from Sweden and the United States of
America

Introduction

1. By the third revision of the GHS, the criteria for hazardous to the aquatic environment were updated to include classification based on chronic toxicity. The terminology for sub-classes and categories was then amended to better reflect that, as explained in the introduction of Annex 9 to GHS, we do not classify for the toxic effect on an individual organism, population or species, but that when we seek to identify hazards to the environment we seek to define those effects in terms of wider effects on ecosystem or environmental compartments (in this case the aquatic compartment) on a short-term and long-term basis.

2. There is still, however, some inconsistency in the terminology currently used in Chapter 4.1 and the related annexes of the GHS. Therefore, the proposal in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2012/24 (submitted to the 24th session of the GHS Sub-Committee) intends to align the terminology used in Chapter 4.1 and Annex 9 in accordance with the following terms:

- **Hazard class:** Hazardous to the aquatic environment;
- **Sub-classes:** Short-term (acute) hazard and Long-term (chronic) hazard;
- **Categories:** Acute 1, Acute 2, Acute 3, Chronic 1, Chronic 2, Chronic 3 and Chronic 4.

3. If the proposal in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2012/24 is adopted, Section 2.9.3 in Chapter 2.9 of the Model Regulations should be amended accordingly, since its text is taken from the GHS. The consequential amendments to the Model Regulations are listed below.

Proposal

4. Amend section 2.9.3 of Chapter 2.9 of the Model Regulations as follows:

- Paragraph 2.9.3.2.3 and Table 2.9.1 (a):

Replace (twice): “acute (short-term)” with “short-term (acute)”

- Table 2.1.2, paragraphs 2.9.3.4.3.3, 2.9.3.4.5.2 (a) and 2.9.3.4.6.2.2 and Table 4.1.3:

Replace (5 times): “acute hazard” with “short-term (acute) hazard”

- Figure 2.9.2:

In the title, replace (once): “acute” with “short-term (acute)”

In the text, replace (4 times): “acute/long-term” with “short-term (acute)/long-term (chronic)”

- Paragraphs 2.9.3.2.4, Figure 2.9.1 (Title and text), paragraphs 2.9.3.4.3.2, 2.9.3.4.3.4 (b), 2.9.3.4.5.2 (b) and 2.9.3.4.6.3.3, and Table 2.9.4:

Replace (8 times): “Long-term hazard” with “Long-term (chronic) hazard”

- Table 2.9.1(b), and Figure 2.9.2 (Title):

Replace (twice) “Long-term aquatic” with “Long-term (chronic) aquatic”

- Table 2.9.2 (note 2):

Replace (once): “chronic categories” with “long-term (chronic) categories”
