

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

29 November 2012

Forty-second session

Geneva, 3 – 11 December 2012

Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Issues relating to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals: criteria for water-reactivity**

Criteria for water-reactivity, Agenda Item 8(b) HM-14 Project Status Report

Submitted by the expert from the United States

Introduction

1. During the 41st Session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, a working group, chaired by the expert from the United States, met to consider progress on the development of criteria and relevant test methods for the classification of materials that in contact with water evolve toxic and /or flammable gases. A report was filed as UN/SCETDG/41/INF.76.

2. Discussion of this topic has been ongoing for some time, and has its origins in GHS discussions on OECD proposals related to classification of these substances. See, for instance, UN/SCEGHS/5/INF.19. As discussions on this topic proceeded, it became apparent that improvements in Test N.5 of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria should be sought, particularly regarding both inter- and intra-lab reproducibility. See, for instance, ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2008/68 and UN/SCETDG/40/INF.38.

3. In response to this, as noted would be the case in UN/SCETDG/41/INF.76, a contract managed by the U.S. Transportation Research Board (TRB) is now underway. A summary of the scope of work for this effort is available at: <http://apps.trb.org/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=3138>.

4. As a follow up to the working group meeting in July, the US expert herein relays some information on project status. Delegations interested in collaborating in this work are invited to contact the principal investigator directly as the work is not managed by the Expert from the United States but rather by the investigator as stipulated under the terms of the TRB contract in place.

As of November, 2012:

(a) Outreach to affected industry including producers of water-reactive materials and test laboratories engaged in classification testing of Division 4.3 materials has taken place, and a list of interested stakeholders compiled. Additional interested parties are invited to contact the project Principal Investigator (contact information below).

(b) A comprehensive review of deliberations and documents from the Subcommittees of Experts for the Transport of Dangerous Goods and Global Harmonization of Standards had been conducted to establish a comprehensive view of the background and motivation for the project.

(c) A survey of technical literature and available test methods and results had reached final draft stage and had been circulated to interested regulatory and industry stakeholders for comments, with comments due by the end of November, 2012.

(d) Development of candidate test methodology and a test plan for Phase II work on test method development and validation are underway.

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“Test Procedures and Classification Criteria for Release of Toxic Gases from Water-
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