

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

4 December 2012

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Item 2 (e) of the provisional agenda

Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of
Classification and Labelling of chemicals (GHS):

Miscellaneous proposals

GHS pictogram codes for sectors other than transport

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom

Issue

1. Working document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2012/21 proposed a scheme for codifying the GHS pictograms other than those prescribed by the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations. However, since preparing this paper the expert from the United Kingdom has been made aware of information indicating that a different scheme may be more appropriate.
2. This information includes:
 - (a) A system of coding GHS01, GHS02, GHS03, etc up to GHS09, is adopted in the International Uniform Chemical Information Database (IUCLID) to codify the nine pictograms used. IUCLID is the recommended or accepted software for data submission for the OECD Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Programme, the EU REACH Regulation, the EU Biocides Review Programme, the US HPV Challenge Program, and the Japan Challenge Program¹, and allows full exchangeability of datasets between all users of the IUCLID software.
 - (b) The same system of coding is enshrined in the EU Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (1272/2008). The codes are extensively used in Annex VI of that Regulation, which lists the legally binding harmonised classification and labelling of several thousand substances, as well as by industry during self-classification as notified to the publicly available Classification and Labelling Inventory² and in Safety Data Sheets.
 - (c) Australia uses the same system, for example in posters summarising the GHS classification and labelling scheme.
 - (d) So far as we are aware there appears to be no other formal system of coding adopted for GHS pictograms other than transport.

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<http://www.oecd.org/env/chemicalsafetyandbiosafety/assessmentofchemicals/electronictoolsfordatasubmissionevaluationandexchangeintheoecdcooperativechemicalsassessmentprogramme.htm>

² <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/information-on-chemicals/cl-inventory-database>

3. On this basis the benefits of global pictogram codification - implementation of the GHS by helping industry and competent authorities to exchange and transmit labelling requirements unambiguously - would most easily be achieved by adopting the same system as is already used in the OECD and the EU.

Proposal

4. The Sub-Committee is invited to agree the proposed coding system and GHS text in paragraph 5 below.

5. Proposed amendments to the GHS:

Amendments to Chapter 1.4

1.4.10.4.3 Insert a new sub-section 1.4.10.4.3 to read as follows:

“1.4.10.4.3 Codification

Pictograms prescribed by the GHS for sectors other than transport, and a code uniquely identifying each one, are listed in Section 4 of Annex 3. The pictogram code is intended to be used for reference purposes only. It is not part of the pictogram, and should not be used to replace a pictogram on labels or in safety data sheets.”

Amendments to Annex 3

Insert the following new Section 4 in Annex 3 (as a consequence, current section 4 becomes new section 5):

“Annex 3

Section 4

CODIFICATION OF PICTOGRAMS

A3.4.1 Introduction

A3.4.1.1 *Pictogram* means a graphical composition that may include a symbol plus other graphic elements, such as a border, background pattern or colour that is intended to convey specific information.

A3.4.1.2 This section contains the recommended code assigned to each of the pictograms prescribed by the GHS for sectors other than transport.

A3.4.1.3 The pictogram code is intended to be used for reference purposes. It is not part of the pictogram and should not be used to replace a pictogram on labels or in safety data sheets.




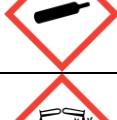




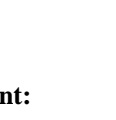
A3.4.2 Codification of pictograms

A3.4.2.1 GHS pictograms for sectors other than transport are assigned a unique alphanumerical code as follows:

- (a) the letters “GHS” and

- (b) a sequential number “01”, “02”, “03” etc assigned in accordance with Table A3.4.1 below.

Table A3.4.1

Code	Hazard pictogram	Symbol
GHS01		Exploding bomb
GHS02		Flame
GHS03		Flame over circle
GHS04		Gas cylinder
GHS05		Corrosion
GHS06		Skull and crossbones
GHS07		Exclamation mark
GHS08		Health hazard
GHS09		Environment

”

Consequential amendment:

Amend the title of Annex 3 and its related entry in the table of contents to read:

“CODIFICATION OF HAZARD STATEMENTS, CODIFICATION AND USE OF PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS, CODIFICATION OF HAZARD PICTOGRAMS AND EXAMPLES OF PRECAUTIONARY PICTOGRAMS”