

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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Geneva, 12 – 14 December 2012

Items 3 of the provisional agenda

Hazard communication

Report from the correspondence group on the revision of Section 9 of the SDS

Transmitted by the expert from Germany on behalf of the correspondence group

Introduction

1. This document reports about the status of work of the informal correspondence group on the revision of Section 9 of the SDS.
2. Since its last report during the last meeting of the Sub-Committee, the correspondence group had one phone conference (which is even more difficult in those times when the United States of America has switched to normal time and Australia to daylight-saving time; but the respective colleagues participated even though they had to put up with rather adverse times). In addition the group had a short but constructive meeting on December 12.
3. In the following, the correspondence group wishes to outline the discussions and decisions taken in in order to keep the Sub-Committee up-dated.

Status of work

4. In informal document INF.19 (23rd session) the correspondence group presented the status of its work. This document contained two Annexes with a preliminary draft Table 1 for Annex 4, Section 9 listing the basic physical-chemical properties. This Table is supposed to give guidance for each of the required properties by giving information on the applicability of the property and by indicating what type of information is expected in the SDS. The second Annex contained the same Table as the first Annex and is amended by justifications for each of the listed properties in order to facilitate the understanding and possible decisions to be taken by the Sub-Committee in the future.
5. Since then the correspondence group has further refined the text of Table 1 on the basic physical and chemical properties and also the introductory text.
6. Furthermore the group has put together a preliminary draft of the 2nd Table in the meantime which aims at giving guidance with regard to data that should be contained in the SDS for physical hazards. Its (preliminary) title is "Data relevant where a substance/mixture is classified for a physical hazard" and the (preliminary) introductory

text to this Table is "Table 2 lists the properties/safety characteristics and test results that should be indicated in case a substance or mixture is classified in the respective hazard class. Information in accordance with Table 2 is only required for those hazard classes into which the respective substance/mixture is classified."

Further work

7. The correspondence group has not yet finished discussions on Table 2 and has not yet discussed the other (non-basic) safety characteristics which are not directly related to physical hazards classification such as auto-ignition temperature or decomposition temperature, etc. Furthermore, additional characteristics might be included in connection with the work of the group on dust explosion hazards. Such properties are supposed to be taken up in Table 3 "Further safety characteristics".

8. The correspondence group will try to produce draft text for Table 3 until the next meeting and hopes that the preliminary text for all three Tables can be presented in the next meeting of the Sub-Committee for information. The correspondence group would like to involve the Sub-Committee rather sooner than later in order to be able to consider possible comments well in time thereby facilitating decisions to be taken by the Sub-Committee at a later stage (at the end of the biennium at the latest).
