



**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****Forty-fifth session**

Geneva, 23 June – 2 July 2014

Item 11 (i) of the provisional agenda

**Issues relating to the Globally Harmonized System
of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:
miscellaneous****Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals****Twenty-seventh session**

Geneva, 2–4 July 2014

Item 3 (a) (ii) of the provisional agenda

**Classification criteria and related hazard communication:
Work of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport
of Dangerous Goods (other relevant issues)**

Use of the Manual of Tests and Criteria in the context of the GHS

Note by the secretariat¹

Introduction

1. The Manual of Tests and Criteria contains criteria, test methods and procedures intended to be used for the classification of dangerous goods according to the provisions of Parts 2 and 3 of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, but also for the classification of chemicals presenting physical hazards according to the GHS.
2. Adopted in December 1984, and first published in 1986, the Manual was originally intended to contain the tests and criteria to be used for transport classification of explosives and organic peroxides. Its scope was progressively extended to tests and criteria relating to dangerous goods possessing physical hazards subject to transport regulations.
3. As the criteria of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, were used as a basis for the development of criteria for GHS classification of chemicals possessing physical hazards, the related Manual of Tests and Criteria became *de facto* a relevant instrument for use in the context of the

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2013-2014 approved by the Committee at its sixth session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/84, para. 86 and ST/SG/AC.10/40, para. 14).

implementation of the GHS, and many references to the Manual were included in the various chapters of Part 2 of the GHS.

4. Nevertheless, the text of the Manual of Tests and Criteria has never been entirely reviewed to take account of those developments, and many paragraphs are still referring back only to provisions of the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, or to the transport context, when they should be now taking account of the wider GHS context.

5. Now that the GHS is being implemented in many countries and that a significant amount of amendments to the fifth revised edition of the Manual is expected to be adopted before the end of this biennium and should lead to a new revised edition of the Manual, the secretariat is of the opinion that it would be desirable that the forthcoming next revised edition of the Manual include, where applicable, the relevant references to the GHS.

Proposal

6. The secretariat has checked the current text of the Manual of Tests and Criteria and has consolidated a new revision (i.e. ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.5, –/Rev.5/Corr.1 and – Rev.5/Amend.1 and 2) where amendments and corrections to the 5th revised edition appear in visible mode (“track-changes”), are highlighted, and are followed by a reference to the original document (e.g. ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.5/Amend.1).

7. The secretariat has also identified parts of the text which in its view, would require updating, and is suggesting amendments. These also appear in visible mode but without highlighting. Comments drawing the sub-committee’s attention to particular issues for which the sub-committee’s advice is sought appear in balloons in the margins of the document.

8. The suggested amendments address mainly the following:

- Introductory paragraphs explaining the relationship between the Model Regulations and the GHS
- References to GHS chapters and paragraphs
- References to GHS hazard classes and categories
- Terminology issues (e.g.: replacement of “substances” with “substances and mixtures”; “formulations” with “mixtures”, etc)
- References to transport, to be extended to other sectors covered by the GHS (e.g. storage)

9. The suggested texts are circulated in the following informal documents:

- INF.8 (TDG) – INF.5 (GHS): Introduction
- INF.8/Add.1 (TDG) – INF.5/Add.1 (GHS): Part I (Sections 10 to 15)
- INF.8/Add.2 (TDG) – INF.5/Add.2 (GHS): Part I (Sections 16 to 18)
- INF.8/Add.3 (TDG) – INF.5/Add.3 (GHS): Part II (Sections 20 to 28)
- INF.8/Add.4 (TDG) – INF.5/Add.4 (GHS): Part III (Sections 30 to 38) and Part IV (Sections 40 and 41)
- INF.8/Add.5 (TDG) – INF.5/Add.5 (GHS): Appendices

10. These texts do not include draft amendments that have been adopted so far in this biennium nor those which are going to be discussed at this session.

11. If the suggestions by the secretariat are adopted, some consequential amendments may be necessary to the Model Regulations and the GHS. The secretariat would prepare a document to this effect for consideration by both sub-committees at their December sessions if there is agreement on finalising the revision of the Manual during the current biennium.

Action requested of both sub-committees

12. Both sub-committees are invited to consider the suggestions by the secretariat with a view to having the revised texts adopted for its inclusion in the 6th revised edition of the Manual which is expected to be published next year.

13. It is suggested that the amendments to the sections of the Manual dealing with testing of explosives be examined by the Working Group on Explosives at its next meeting during the 45th session of the TDG Sub-Committee.
