

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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Item 2 (d) of the provisional agenda

Classification criteria and hazard communication:

Dust explosion hazards

Canadian proposal related to dust explosion hazards

Transmitted by the expert from Canada

Introduction

1. To support the informal paper on Dust explosion hazards: workstream 3 proposal that has been transmitted by the expert from the United States of America, Canada recently provided updated information regarding the Canadian proposal related to dust explosion hazards.
2. This paper describes Canada's current proposal for dust explosion hazards.

Background

3. A notice requesting comments on a proposal to repeal and replace the Canadian *Controlled Products Regulations* to implement the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in Canada, and to make consequential amendments to related regulations, was published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I on June 29, 2013.
4. The public consultation on the Canadian regulatory proposal occurred from June 29 to September 15, 2013.
5. The public consultation on the Canadian regulatory proposal was mentioned at the 25th session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (July 1 to 3, 2013).

Canadian proposal for dust explosion hazards

6. As part of the initiative to implement the GHS for workplace chemicals in Canada, a new hazard class to address dust explosion hazards is proposed to be added to the Canadian Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS). WHMIS is Canada's national hazard classification and hazard communication standard. This national system, which is administered through coordinated federal, provincial and territorial legislation, includes requirements for cautionary labelling of containers of hazardous products used in workplaces, the provision of safety data sheets, and worker education and training programs.

7. In the Canadian regulatory proposal, a hazard class entitled “Combustible dusts” is proposed. The proposed definition, classification criteria, and labelling elements for the Combustible Dusts hazard class are the following:

Definition: “combustible dust” means a mixture or substance that is in the form of a powder that is liable to catch fire or explode when dispersed in a gas containing oxygen.

Classification criteria: A mixture or substance that: (a) has been shown to catch fire or explode when dispersed in a gas containing oxygen; or (b) is classified in a division of the hazard class “Flammable Solids” and 5% or more of its composition by weight has a particle size $\leq 500 \mu\text{m}$, is classified in Combustible Dusts – Category 1.

Labelling elements:

Symbol: no symbol

Signal Word: Warning

Hazard Statement: May form combustible dust concentrations in air.
