

**Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals**

12 November 2014

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods**

Forty-sixth session

Geneva, 1–9 December 2014

Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Issues relating to the Globally Harmonized System
of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:
desensitized explosives**

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

Twenty-eighth session

Geneva, 10–12 (a.m) December 2014

Item 2 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda

**Classification criteria and related hazard
communication: work of the Sub-Committee of Experts
on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG): physical
hazards**

**Desensitized explosives: comments on hazard and
precautionary statements in the proposal in
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2014/81 – ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2014/16**

Transmitted by the expert from Germany

Introduction

1. The proposal for introduction of a new Chapter 2.17 “Desensitized explosives” in the GHS results from the work of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.
2. In the twenty-seventh session of the Sub-Committee on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling in July 2014, there was general support for the adoption of this chapter. However, a few experts expressed some concerns about some of the hazard communication elements in the proposal in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2014/2 – ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2014/2. There were also some considerations on editorial aspects. The expert from Germany invited all participants for comments and proposed to revise the proposal in the light of the comments made. An additional telephone conference was proposed to reconcile the final proposal and come to a consensus on any outstanding issues.
3. This informal paper reflects the additional work and agreements reached by experts from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and Germany.

Revision of the Proposal

4. Comments concentrated on the different terms used in hazard and precautionary statements addressing “desensitization” because experts were afraid that in practice the meaning of this term would not be easily understood. As an outcome of this discussion, several alternative proposals for the three hazard statements were identified. The proposal for P212, however, was kept as presented originally, “Avoid heating under confinement or reduction of the desensitizing agent”.

5. Also, valuable editorial comments for improvement were obtained which could easily be included in the document to revise the wording of the proposal.

6. For preparation of the final revision, the expert from Germany included all comments and selected a suggestion from the United States of America and Canada as most appropriate to amend the hazard statements in the light of the discussion. The resulting document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2014/81 – ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2014/16 was submitted to both sub-committees and is now available on the secretariat's website in combination with an informal paper (UN/SCEGHS/28/INF.4 - UN/SCETDG/46/INF.4), which provides explanations for the revised text elements.

Final consultation of experts

7. In a phone conference on 22 October, experts were invited to review the final proposal and express their opinion on the amended hazard communication elements. Some formerly involved experts could not participate in the meeting themselves, but provided comments.

8. All experts agreed on the wording of the hazard statements proposed in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2014/81 – ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2014/16. The final text therefore reads as already proposed:

H206 Fire, blast or projection hazard; increased risk of explosion if desensitizing agent is reduced

H207 Fire or projection hazard; increased risk of explosion if desensitizing agent is reduced

H208 Fire hazard; increased risk of explosion if desensitizing agent is reduced

9. There were no further comments concerning substantial or editorial changes, merely some corrections for minor spelling errors were identified which will be brought forward to the secretariat.

10. The expert from Germany wants to thank all the experts for their valuable input to improve the document and is confident that the sub-committees will be able to adopt the proposal in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2014/81 – ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2014/16.
