

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

10 June 2015

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

Forty-seventh session

Geneva, 22 – 26 June 2015

Item 2 (h) of the provisional agenda

**Explosives and related matters: review of Chapter
2.1 of the GHS**

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

Twenty-ninth session

Geneva, 29 June – 1 July 2015

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Classification criteria and related hazard
communication: work of the Sub-Committee of Experts
on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) on
matters of interest to the GHS Sub-Committee**

Review of Chapter 2.1 of the GHS

Transmitted by the expert from Australia

Background

1. The TDG Sub-Committee and the GHS Sub-Committee agreed during its forty-sixth session and twenty-eighth session, respectively, to the proposal to review Chapter 2.1 (Explosives) of the GHS in accordance with the mandate described in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2014/79 (TDG, 46th session) and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2014/15 (GHS, 28th session). The proposal was transmitted by the expert from Australia and by the Australian Explosives Industry Safety Group (AEISG).
2. The purpose of the proposal to review Chapter 2.1 of the GHS was to address issues with classification and hazard communication for explosives during manufacture, storage, handling and use when the explosives are not packaged for transport.
3. The TDG Sub-Committee agreed that as the focal point for physical hazards, including for questions not related to transport, the work should be done at the level of the Working Group on Explosives. The TDG Sub-Committee agreed that an informal correspondence group established to undertake the review should submit its proposals to the TDG Sub-Committee for consideration by the Working Group on Explosives, and that all experts concerned of both sub-committees should participate in the work of the correspondence group and of the Working Group on Explosives (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/92, paragraphs 85-87). At the time, the expert from Australia proposed to lead the correspondence group for this purpose.

Discussion

4. Australia advises the TDG and GHS Sub-Committees that it is no longer in a position to lead the informal correspondence group for the review of Chapter 2.1 of the GHS as agreed by the Sub-Committees.
5. At the time the expert from Australia transmitted the proposal for the review of Chapter 2.1 of the GHS, Australia was in the early stages of reviewing national explosives

legislation and considering the use of the GHS within that legislative framework in relation to defining and classifying explosives, along with hazard communication for explosives.

However, Australia's project to develop nationally consistent explosives regulation among nine domestic jurisdictions, a significant legislative reform, has not yet progressed to the extent that it could either inform this review or dedicate sufficient resources necessary to lead the review and correspondence group with conviction.

6. Australia acknowledges that the review of Chapter 2.1 of the GHS nonetheless remains in the work programmes of both Sub-Committees. Experts may wish to discuss how they deal with the review of Chapter 2.1 of the GHS in 2015-16 having regard to the procedure agreed in the TDG Sub-Committee at its forty-sixth session.
