

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**

6 December 2016

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Geneva, 7-9 December 2016

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for the biennium 2017-2018

Proposed work programme for the 2017-2018 biennium in relation to aspiration hazard

Transmitted by the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC)

1. At the request of IPPIC the agenda item “Aspiration hazard: viscosity criterion for mixtures” was included in the work programme of the Sub-Committee on GHS for the 2015-2016 biennium. This relates to identification of appropriate viscosity criteria based on ISO flow cup measurements at room temperature, since the measurement of kinematic viscosity at 40°C is not practically feasible for certain mixtures such as paints or printing inks. IPPIC regrets that it has not been possible to progress this work item as far as had been intended by the conclusion of the current biennium.
 2. At the thirtieth session of the Sub-Committee the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) also raised an additional, but different, aspect related to aspiration hazard, namely the applicability of the criteria to chemical groups other than pure hydrocarbons (as per working document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2015/8). Interested experts were invited to contact IMO, but to date no proposal has been presented to the Sub-Committee on this aspect.
 3. Both of these aspects still merit consideration by the Sub-Committee and, where appropriate, amendment of the GHS criteria on the basis of future proposals. It is therefore proposed that a broader work item “Aspiration hazard” be included in the work programme of the Sub-Committee for the 2017-2018 biennium, with the following parallel workstreams:
 - (a) Workstream 1: clarification of the applicability of the classification criteria for substances in 3.10.2 to chemical moieties other than pure hydrocarbons. (Workstream led by IMO)
 - (b) Workstream 2: development of alternative viscosity criteria for mixtures in 3.10.3.3, determined at ambient temperature (23°C), using a method such as flow cups in accordance with ISO2431:2011. (Workstream led by IPPIC)
 4. The Sub-Committee is invited to agree the proposed plan of work.
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