

## **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**

**24 November 2020**

### **Thirty-ninth session**

Geneva, 9-11 December 2020

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Hazard communication: practical labelling issues**

## **Terms of reference for the informal working group on practical labelling issues and work programme for biennium 2021-2022**

**Transmitted by the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) on  
behalf of the informal working group**

### **Background**

1. The terms of reference of the informal working group on practical labelling issues were agreed by the Sub-Committee at its thirty-sixth session.
2. During the present biennium the working group generated thought starters in order to allow to review the existing digital means of communication that can be used to convey GHS hazard information to users and to explore the background and benefits of, as well as the concerns with, the digitalisation of hazard information for chemical products.
3. Some progress was made to consider to what extent the GHS could address the issue of digitalisation such as the use of GHS terminology, data accessibility and user friendliness.
4. Other aspects have been identified to be further explored.

### **Terms of reference**

5. The terms of reference of the informal working group on practical labelling issues, as reminded hereafter, are proposed for renewal:
  - (a) To address hazard communication issues arising from the use of GHS label elements, i.e. by developing guidance and examples that are outside of the scope of the informal working group on the improvement of annexes 1 to 3.
  - (b) Consider the opportunities that digitalization may bring to convey GHS hazard information and make proposals to address them.

### **Proposed work programme for 2021-2022**

6. It is proposed that, during the biennium 2021-2022, the informal working group will cover the following activities:
  - (a) Update, as agreed at the thirty eighth session, the examples in Annex 7 while keeping their layout and deleting explicit chemical names.
  - (b) Consider the generation and inclusion of explicit labelling examples as guidance to be published on the GHS guidance webpage.

- (c) Collect initiatives on the use of digitalisation to convey hazard information on chemicals.
  - (d) Explore the following aspects:
    - (i) Access to digitalised information in different jurisdictions;
    - (ii) The extent of harmonisation required to avoid uncontrolled situations;
    - (iii) Data privacy for the end user;
    - (iv) Data compatibility across different systems;
    - (v) Supplemental information versus label information.
  - (e) Consider the development of general principles and criteria on the provision of this information digitally.
  - (f) Develop guidance and examples wherever appropriate. This can also include an assessment of backup solutions for users who are unable to connect to digital information.
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