

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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Agenda item 2 of the provisional agenda

UPDATING OF THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

Progress report on OECD work since the last Sub-Committee meeting

Transmitted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Issues under discussion

1. The remaining work for the OECD Task Force on Harmonization of Classification and Labelling (HCL) is the submission of (i) a proposal for classification and labelling for chronic aquatic hazards, (ii) a proposal for ozone depleting chemicals, (iii) a (summary) validation report of the T/D Protocol and (iv) a proposal related to strong versus weak sensitizers.

Chronic aquatic hazards

2. The Sub-Committee requested the OECD to further develop the classification scheme to accommodate chronic toxicity to aquatic organisms for assigning a chronic hazard category, starting with the submission of a scientific issue paper. The OECD expert group on Aquatic Hazards made considerable efforts to develop the scientific issue paper that was submitted to the Sub-Committee in July 2006, and the related proposal. The expert group had three meetings (Spain, 2004; OECD, 2005 and United States, 2006), and a number of conference calls. The scheme for classification of substances was agreed at the 2006 Task Force meeting. However, the expert group had to further work on the classification scheme for mixtures. A proposal for replacing GHS Chapter 4.1 and Sections A9.1-A9.3 was recently agreed by the expert group on Aquatic Hazards. It was sent to the Task Force on HCL and to the Sub-Committees on Transport on Dangerous goods and on GHS for any comments by 26 December 2006. An OECD proposal should be submitted for approval at the July Sub-Committee meeting.

Ozone depleting chemicals

3. The OECD submitted a detailed comparison of classification and labelling systems for ozone depleting chemicals at the July Sub-Committee meeting. The OECD Secretariat informed the Ozone Secretariat of the conclusions of the Sub-Committee, i.e. that the work should continue and that it would consider any proposal or option in this respect for final decision. The OECD expert group on ozone depleting chemicals had two conference calls on 13 October and 30 November 2006. A proposal for classification criteria and labelling of ozone depleting chemicals was agreed by the experts on 30 November. This proposal has been circulated to the expert group for any

comments from the experts who were unable to attend the last conference call. By the end of December, the Task Force on HCL and the two sub-Committees should receive a draft proposal for comments. The Ozone Secretariat will be informed as soon as that the proposal is available for the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. It is expected that a proposal will be submitted for approval at the July Sub-Committee meeting.

Validation of the Transformation/Dissolution Protocol

4. A fourth Validation Management Group (VMG) of the Transformation/Dissolution Protocol was held in Brussels on 28-29 September 2006. The draft report of the validation (assessing reproducibility and repeatability) includes a description of the experimental work and a statistical analysis of the results. This draft report is being finalized and the VMG agreed that it should be sent to the OECD Task Force on HCL and to the two Sub-Committees before the end of the year for any comments. A summary report should be submitted for endorsement at the July Sub-Committee meeting. Further work is ongoing to study the relevance of the protocol (phase 2). The VMG already discussed the content of the phase 2 report, which should also include a statistical analysis. It is expected that the phase 2 report will be ready for endorsement by the Sub-Committee at the July or December 2007 meeting.

Strong versus weak sensitizers

5. The OECD submitted an issue paper on strong versus weak sensitizers at the last Sub-Committee meeting. This paper suggested waiting the IPCS/WHO workshop before developing a proposal for strong versus weak sensitizers. The OECD expert group agreed to restart its work considering the following new elements: the IPCS/WHO workshop held on 17-18 October 2006, the US CPSC Staff Report on the draft Proposed Revision of the FHSA "Strong Sensitizer" Supplemental Definition, ICCVAM possible validation of the LLNA for potency categorization, and the EU forthcoming development of a guidance document including sensitizers classification. An expert group meeting is planned in February in the United States.