

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 Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Item 2 (d) of the provisional agenda

UPDATING OF THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)

Others

Note by the secretariat

During the process of translation of the first revised edition of the GHS, the Russian Translation Service of the secretariat has raised a question concerning the meaning of the terminology used in Chapters 3.8 and 3.9 of the GHS. The French translation of the first edition was prepared by OECD and checked by experts of the Sub-Committee. The Spanish translation of the first edition was prepared by the UN and checked by experts of the Sub-Committee, but new changes have been suggested to the secretariat by the expert from Spain.

Despite detailed explanations kindly provided by the expert from Spain, the secretariat considers that the English version is not sufficiently clear and should be clarified to avoid differences between the various linguistic versions, and problems of misinterpretation and implementation.

The problem is linked to the use, or non-use, of a slash (“/”) in the term “Specific Target Organ Systemic Toxicity” or other related expressions such as “specific target organ/system”.

Therefore, the Sub-Committee is invited to clarify what is exactly meant in all the following parts of Chapters 3.8 and 3.9. The secretariat suggests, for the sake of clarity, not to use slashes in the English version and to replace them by coordinating conjunctions as relevant and appropriate.

To illustrate the problem, the secretariat reproduces hereafter, in English, the terms used in the English version of Chapter 3.8 of the first revised edition of the GHS, the translation in English of the corresponding terms used in the French version, and the translation in English of the terminology now proposed for the Spanish version.

Title (Chapters 3.8/3.9) (3.8.1.6, 3.8.5 (decision logic 3.8.1), 3.8.4 (table 3.8.3))	E	SPECIFIC TARGET ORGAN SYSTEMIC TOXICITY
	F	SYSTEMIC TOXICITY FOR CERTAIN TARGET ORGANS
	SP	TARGET ORGAN SPECIFIC SYSTEMIC TOXICITY
3.8.1.1	E	Specific, non lethal target organ/systemic toxicity
	F	Specific, non lethal, toxic systemic effects on certain target organs
	SP	non lethal and target organ specific systemic toxicity
3.8.1.2; 3.8.3.4.1; Table 3.8.2 and related notes	E	Specific target organ/systemic toxicant
	F	systemic toxicants affecting a target organ
	SP	target organ specific systemic toxicity
3.8.1.5; 3.8.1.6; 3.8.2.1.5; 3.8.2.1.10.2; 3.8.2.1.10.3; 3.8.3.1; 3.8.3.3.1	E	Specific target organ/systemic toxicity
	F	systemic toxicity for a target organ
	SP	target organ specific systemic toxicity
Figure 3.8.1	E	specific target organ systemic toxicity
	F	systemic toxicity for certain target organs
	SP	target organ specific systemic toxicity
Figure 3.8.1, NOTE	E	specific target organ/system
	F	target organ or specific system
	SP	specific target organ or system
3.8.2.1.4 3.8.2.1.10.2	E	specific target organ/systemic toxic effect
	F	effects of systemic toxicity and effects on a target organ
	SP	effects of target organ specific systemic toxicity
3.8.2.1.6	E	Target organ/systemic toxicity
	F	Systemic toxicity for a target organ
	SP	Target organ specific systemic toxicity
3.8.2.2.1(e)	E	Organ/systemic effects
	F	Organic/systemic effects
	SP	Systemic effects on other organs or systems
3.8.5.2 decision logic 3.8.2	E	Specific target organ systemic toxicant
	F	Systemic toxicant for certain target organs
	SP	Target organ specific systemic toxicants