

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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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

Development of list of classifications

Transmitted by Australia

1. The purpose of this INF paper is to continue the consideration by the Sub-Committee of the issue of development of an international classification list, for referral to the Implementation Working Group at the end of this meeting. The views of the Sub-Committee are sought on a series of questions previously posed by Australia in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2008/22.
2. These views will be considered by the Implementation Working Group being held at the end of this meeting with the aim of preparing a work plan, including deliverables, for the 19th and 20th sessions of the Sub-Committee.
3. The issues raised by Australia were as follows:
 - (a) Who would develop and maintain the list, and from where would the initial classifications for the list be sourced? What would be the resource implications for this development and maintenance?;
 - (b) What would be the scope of the list, at least initially? Would it be a “core” list of high production volume (HPV) chemicals, for example? Who would decide on the “core” list? Such an approach may have benefits, particularly to developing economies;
 - (c) Would the aim be to develop a comprehensive list, or as complete a list as possible, in a stepwise manner over a number of years?;
 - (d) Would the focus be on the hazard classes covered, for example, by transport (physical hazards and acute toxicity) so there would be consistency between transport and supply and use sectors?;
 - (e) What would be the process for checking the veracity of the classifications? And if there were classification disputes, how would such disputes be settled? Would it be necessary to establish a “competent authorities panel” to make classification decisions?;

- (f) Given that the GHS is non-binding, what would be the status of the list? If some countries mandated the list, but others didn't, where would the global benefits be? Would it have the same status as the classification list in the UN Model Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods?; and
 - (g) Would each country be required to undertake a cost/benefit analysis before deciding to use a global list? If individual countries could not justify benefits, the use of the list might be variable and fragmented.
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