

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

26 June 2012

Twenty-third session

Geneva, 4 (p.m) – 6 July 2012

Item 2 (e) of the provisional agenda

**Updating of the Globally Harmonized System of
Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS):**

Miscellaneous proposals

Reference numbers for GHS pictograms

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom

1. It has been suggested to the Expert of the United Kingdom that the GHS, and its implementation by regulatory authorities, could be improved by the allocation of reference numbers to the GHS pictograms that are used for supply. It is noted that the pictograms used for transport of dangerous goods are numbered in the UN Modal Regulations (see UN Model Regulations 5.2.2.2.2).
2. Reference numbering of the pictograms is considered useful by classification and labelling practitioners, for example, for computer storage of chemical labelling data sent to on demand printers, and for written communication of labelling information. Referring to the red framed pictograms by reference number rather than the symbol names in GHS 1.4.10.3, can avoid language problems, and use of reference numbers coupled to representations in the GHS text provides an unequivocal system.
3. The European Union has allocated numbers to the pictograms (see Annex) and these are used to identify labelling requirements in the list of EU harmonised classifications and labels in the CLP Regulation and in the inventory of industry notifications (see UN/SCEGHS/23/INF.5).
4. A reference number system provides a unique structure which can be more easily used by accuracy checking routines and for computer searching compared to descriptions, especially as descriptions are language dependent.
5. Providing reference numbers for pictograms would complement the coding system already introduced in the GHS for hazard and precautionary statements.
6. As with the hazard and precautionary statement codes, any reference numbers for pictograms would not have to appear on GHS supply labels, but would be available at International level for those wishing to adopt them.
7. The expert from the United Kingdom welcomes views on whether this should be taken forward, and if so suggestions from the sub-committee on the coding system that should be adopted.

Annex

<i>Ref No (EU only)</i>	<i>Pictogram</i>	<i>GHS Symbol name</i>
GHS01		Exploding bomb
GHS02		Flame
GHS03		Flame over circle
GHS04		Gas cylinder
GHS05		Corrosion
GHS06		Skull and crossbones
GHS07		Exclamation mark
GHS08		Health hazard
GHS09		Environment