

**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 7 of the provisional agenda

Other business

**Confirmation of the OECD Task Force on Hazard
Assessment as focal point for work on health and
environmental hazards**

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat reproduces hereafter a letter from the OECD secretariat concerning the designation of the Task Force on Hazard Assessment as the new focal point on GHS work on health and environmental hazards, following the removal of the former Task Force on Hazard Communication and Labelling from the list of sub-bodies of the OECD Joint Meeting.

Head of Division
Environment, Health and Safety Division
Environment Directorate

Rosa Garcia-Coutó
Secretary of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the
GHS UNECE Transport Division
UN Economic Commission for Europe
Transport Division
Palais des Nations
CH - 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

rosa.garcia.couto@unece.org

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Paris, 26 March 2013

Dear Ms Garcia-Coutó,

Confirmation of the OECD Task Force on Hazard Assessment as focal point for the UN Globally Harmonised System (GHS) for Classification and Labelling for work on health and environmental hazards

I would like to bring to your attention a recent change at OECD in the structure of the sub-bodies of the Joint Meeting for the Chemicals Committee and Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology.

At the end of 2012, the OECD Task Force on Hazard Classification and Labeling (TF HCL) was removed from the list of sub-bodies of the Joint Meeting, and the OECD member countries decided that the Task Force on Hazard Assessment will from 1st January 2013 be the focal point for the UN Sub-Committee on the GHS for work on health and environmental hazards.

The Task Force on Hazard Assessment is composed of experts in chemical hazard assessment and chemical regulators from OECD member countries. The Task Force oversees a number of activities, including the Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Programme (CoCAP), and eChemPortal, which has become an essential tool in data mining, and will soon expand search abilities on hazard classification. The CoCAP (previously known as the OECD HPV Chemicals Programme) has produced hazard assessments for more than 1000 chemicals in the last 10 years. The Task Force on Hazard Assessment is therefore eminently positioned to contribute to the further development of the GHS as well as activities to develop harmonised classifications for individual chemicals.

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Of course, important developments in other areas, such as new Test Guidelines, relevant developments on the safety of nanomaterials, will obviously be brought to the attention of the UN Sub-Committee on the GHS.

I would like to reaffirm the commitment of OECD to contribute to the work of the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS and remain at your disposal to discuss practical arrangements as needed.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Diderich

Cc: Maureen Ruskin, Chair of the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the GHS, Ruskin.maureen@dol.gov