

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

5 July 2021

Fortieth session

Geneva, 5-7 July 2021

Items 2 (a) and 2 (i) of the provisional agenda

Work of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) on matters of interest to the GHS Sub-Committee

Note by the secretariat

1. At its fifty-eighth session, the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee) considered matters of interest to the GHS Sub-Committee under items 2 and 10 of its agenda¹ (“explosives and related matters” and “Issues relating to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals” respectively).
2. Questions under the agenda item “Explosives and related matters” were referred to the Working Group on Explosives, which met via web conference on 14 - 16 and 18 June 2021 to conclude its business prior to and in support of the work of the sub-committees. The report of the Working Group on Explosives has been circulated to the TDG Sub-Committee as informal document INF.23².
3. Having considered the report of the Working Group on Explosives and the explanations provided by its Chairman, the TDG Sub-Committee reached the conclusions listed below for each matter of interest to the GHS Sub-Committee under consideration under agenda items 2 and 10 of its agenda.

GHS agenda item 2 (a)

4. Issues related to the definitions of explosives

Informal document: TDG/INF.23, para. 11 (report of the Working Group on Explosives)

Based on the progress of work done on the revision of Chapter 2.1 of GHS, the Sub-Committee endorsed the EWG's position to continue the work of the Informal Correspondence Group (ICG) on the definition of explosives under the leadership of Sweden, in particular to re-evaluate the concerns on the definitions of "explosive substances" and "Class 1".

(Ref.doc: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2021/R.1/Add.1 para 23: draft report of the TDG Sub-Committee on its 58th session)

¹ ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/115/Add.1/Rev.1.

² <https://unece.org/info/Transport/Dangerous-Goods/events/351431>

5. Proposal for unifying animal species for evaluation test of acute dermal toxicity in GHS and Model Regulations

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2021/16 (China)

The Sub-Committee could not find a consensus on the proposal. While some delegations agreed to the principle of harmonizing the provisions with GHS without promoting animal testing, most experts who spoke noted general caution of possible impacts of such an amendment, such as far reaching reclassifications and the possibility of increased animal testing. The expert from China invited all experts to further comment on the document via email and offered to prepare an updated proposal for a future session.

(Ref.doc: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2021/R.1/Add.2 para 34: draft report of the TDG Sub-Committee on its 58th session)

GHS agenda item 2 (i)

6. Alignment of Chapter 2.17 with Chapter 2.1: correction to the GHS

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2021/6 (Sweden)

Informal document: TDG/INF.23, para. 17 (report of the Working Group on Explosives)

The Sub-Committee endorsed the outcome of the EWG on the proposal by Sweden for consequential amendments to Chapter 2.1 of GHS, as reflected in paragraph 17 of informal document INF.23.

(Ref.doc: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2021/R.1/Add.8 para. 84: draft report of the TDG Sub-Committee on its 58th session)

7. Proposal for simple definition of the word “toxic”

Informal document: INF.12 (RPMASA)

The Sub-Committee felt that there was no need to insert in the Model Regulations a definition of "toxic". It was noted that toxic endpoints were clearly defined by classification criteria and that inserting a generic definition could create confusion and extend the scope to substances that do not meet that criteria. Some experts suggested that training and capacity building could help addressing the problem raised.

(Ref.doc: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2021/R.1/Add.8 para. 89: draft report of the TDG Sub-Committee on its 58th session)