

**Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals**

1 December 2021

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods**

Fifty-ninth session

Geneva, 29 November-8 December 2021
Item 10 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Issues relating to the Globally Harmonized System
of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals:
Simultaneous classification in physical hazards and
precedence of hazards**

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

Forty-first session

Geneva, 8-10 December 2021
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Work on the Globally Harmonized System (GHS):
Simultaneous classification in physical hazard classes
and precedence of hazards**

**Informal working group on combinations of physical
hazards: status report and further work**

Transmitted by the expert from Germany¹

1. Since the last session, the informal working group on combinations of physical hazards under the GHS has picked up its work again.
2. The group currently works on the following tasks according to its terms of reference:²
 - Task 1.1 Clarify for which combinations simultaneous assignment is not possible based on the physical state.
 - Task 1.2 Clarify for which combinations simultaneous assignment is not possible based on explicit information in the GHS.
 - Task 1.3 Work out further criteria/principles that can be used to analyse the remaining combinations regarding simultaneous assignment, taking into account e.g. safety of testing personnel, limitations with regard to conduct and interpretation of test results, redundancy of hazard communication etc.
 - Task 1.4 Apply the criteria from task 1.3 to the remaining combinations of hazard classes and clarify which combinations of physical hazards are relevant and which are not.
3. For the purposes of tasks 1.1 and 1.2, an assessment of combinations of physical hazards that are not possible based on physical state or explicit information in the GHS has been prepared (in the form of a cross table for all combinations of physical hazards) and distributed within the group.
4. In addition, the cross table according to paragraph 3 contains contributions by some experts of the group with their assessments of combinations of physical hazards for certain physical hazard classes (also beyond tasks 1.1 and 1.2). These contributions are supposed to be used especially in the course of task 1.4. Further input to this table is welcome at any time.

¹ See ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/80, paragraph 12.

² See ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2018/21, as amended in the report of the Sub-Committee on its thirty-sixth session, see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/72, paragraph 74.

5. For the purposes of task 1.3, a compilation of references to safety in testing in the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria and in ISO 10156 (for flammable and oxidizing gases) has been prepared and distributed within the group.
 6. A web-meeting of the group is scheduled for January 26, 2022. In the meeting it is particularly intended to discuss and possibly conclude tasks 1.1 and 1.2 and to what extent safety in testing for physical hazards is relevant with regard to task 1.3.
 7. The experts of both sub-committees are asked to note that the distribution list of this working group consists (only) of those experts who have requested to be included in the list.³ Experts from both sub-committees who would like to be added to the list are asked to send an e-mail to the expert from Germany (Cordula Wilrich).
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³ This practice differs from that of other informal working groups in the Sub-Committee GHS because of the quite specific subject of this group.