

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**

6 July 2022

Forty-second session

Geneva, 6-8 July 2022

Items 2 (a), (f), (i) and 6 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

At its sixtieth 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, 3 and 10 of its agenda¹ (“explosives and related matters” and “Issues relating to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals” respectively).

Questions under the agenda item “Explosives and related matters” were referred to the Working Group on Explosives, which met via web conference on 27 - 30 June 2022 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.44.²

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 on matters of interest to the GHS Sub-Committee.

GHS agenda item 2 (a)

1. Amendment of the Manual of Tests and Criteria to appropriately reflect the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2022/11 - ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2022/2
(Germany, Chair of the Explosives Working Group)

Informal document: TDG/INF.44, para. 17 (report of the Working Group on Explosives)

“Taking into account the conclusions of the EWG on document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2022/11, the TDG Sub-Committee adopted the amendments proposed in paragraphs 5 and 9 of the document (see annex...), subject to the confirmation by the GHS Sub-Committee. On the amendments proposed in paragraphs 10 and 12, it was agreed to resume discussion at the next session on the basis of a new document by Germany.”

¹ ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/119/Add.1.

² <https://unece.org/transport/documents/2022/07/informal-documents/report-working-group-explosives-chair-working-group>

2. Exit from Class 1 for very low hazard energetic articles

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2022/4 - ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2022/36 (COSTHA, SAAMI)

Informal document: TDG/INF.44, paragraph 8 (report of the Working Group on Explosives)

The explosives working group supported SAAMI continuing exploratory work to inform future discussions regarding the potential differentiation of hazards from articles currently in division 1.4S. This may include alternative designations based on criteria to be determined.

3. Manual of Tests and Criteria, sections 1.2.1.4.3 and 20.2.5 on self-heating test N.4 for organic peroxides

Informal documents: TDG/INF.5 – GHS/INF.6 (Cefic)

TDG/INF.44, paragraph 6 (report of the Working Group on Explosives)

There was general support for the proposal and the representative of Cefic was invited to submit it as an official document for the next session for adoption. In addition, it was suggested that polymerizing substances could be included as well as additional work on physical hazard testing.

4. Issues related to definition of Class 1

Informal documents: TDG/INF.12 (Sweden)

TDG/INF.44, paragraph 9 (report of the Working Group on Explosives)

“On the proposed amendment to definitions of Class 1 (amendment 3 in informal document INF.44), the Sub-Committee noted that the EWG had endorsed the proposal with some additional amendments (see para. 9 in informal document INF.44). However, noting that the amended texts appeared in Chapter 2.1 of the GHS as well, the Sub-Committee invited the expert from Sweden to submit the proposal (including consequential amendments to the GHS, if applicable) for consideration by the TDG and GHS sub-committees at their next session.”

(Ref.doc: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2022/R.1/Add.6 para 56: draft report of the TDG Sub-Committee on its 60th session)

The explosives working group did not support proposal 1 to amend the definition of Class 1 but was in favour of continuing work to develop explanations and guidance to address the issues raised by Sweden in informal document INF.12.

GHS agenda item 2 (f)

5. Practical classification issues: Guidance on how to convert experimental inhalation toxicity values for exposure times other than 1 or 4 hours for gases, vapours, dusts and mists

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2022/21- ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2022/3
(United States of America)

“The Sub-Committee took note of the proposal to insert guidance in the GHS on how to convert experimental toxicity values using exposure times other than 1 or 4 hours. The expert from China suggested to replace the accepted exposure times for conversion in 3.1.5.3.2 from “30 minutes to 8 hour exposures” to “30 minutes to 6 hour exposures” in accordance with OECD Guideline 39. The expert from Germany suggested to include a table about the available “n” values for different chemicals based on rat models for lethal endpoints. Noting that the Model Regulations give guidance on how to convert exposure times from 1 to 4 hours for inhalation toxicity in Chapter 2.6, a member of the secretariat invited the Sub-Committee

to consider whether it would be appropriate to introduce guidance on conversion of toxicity values for other exposure times in the Model Regulations as well. The GHS Sub-Committee will be informed about the outcome of the discussion.”

(Ref.doc: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2022/R.1/Add.9 para 94: draft report of the TDG Sub-Committee on its 60th session)

GHS agenda item 2 (i)

6. Desensitized explosives

Informal documents: TDG/INF.28 – GHS/INF.8 and INF.36

TDG/INF.44, paragraph 18 (report of the Working Group on Explosives)

“The Sub-Committee noted and endorsed the recommendations from the explosives working group contained in paragraph 18 of informal document INF.44. It was pointed out that the proposed amendments will not have an impact on the existing transport conditions of desensitized explosives.”

(Ref.doc: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2022/R.1/Add.9 para 93: draft report of the TDG Sub-Committee on its 60th session)

GHS agenda item 6

7. Seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion: summary and conclusions

Document: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2022/4 - ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2022/1 (OECD, UNECE)

The Sub-Committee noted the outcome of the online seminar held on 14 December 2021 on the 2020 Beirut port explosion, on lessons learned, experiences and good practices in managing risks of ammonium nitrate storage, handling and transport in port areas, preventing accidents and mitigating their consequences.

A member of the secretariat informed the Sub-Committee that the Bureau of the Industrial Accidents Convention has recently approved the inclusion in the Convention’s workplan for 2023-24 a follow-up activity on risk management on this subject, which builds on the outcomes of the UN/OECD seminar and its preceding survey. It also entails the preparation of an online webpage/repository for information and good practice, which can be supplemented by promotional materials to share information on related:

- (i) international legal and policy instruments; and
- (ii) existing guidance, national experiences, lessons learned and good practices.

The representative of IVODGA welcomed the UN/OECD outcome document and said that a further “White Paper” on storage and handling of dangerous goods in preparation for, or after, sea-transport was published and publicly available on their website³. The representative of AEISG added that delegates may find related information being the AEISG Code of Practice – Storage and Handling of Solid Ammonium Nitrate on their website⁴. The representative of RPMASA underlined the need for capacity building on this subject in the South African region.

(Ref.doc: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2022/R.1/Add.9 paras 98 to 100: draft report of the TDG Sub-Committee on its 60th session)

³ www.ivodga.com

⁴ <https://www.aeisg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/STORAGE-AND-HANDLING-OF-UN3375-COP-EDITION-4-MAY-2017-1.pdf>

8. Review of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies: Summary recommendations

Informal document: TDG/INF.17 – GHS/INF.13 (secretariat)

“The Sub-Committee considered informal document INF.17 during a lunchtime informal meeting on Friday, 1 July 2022 and noted several contributions and suggestions on possible actions to the summary recommendations in the annex to the ECOSOC decision as follows:

- (a) Delegations were invited to add in the justification part of their future proposals the interlinkage to the sustainable development goals, when applicable;
- (b) It was recommended to add a specific agenda item on the follow-up to the Agenda 2030 to ensure regular discussions by the Sub-Committee;
- (c) It was suggested inserting a summary of the activities of the sub-committees on this subject into the draft report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts and its sub-committees;
- (d) One expert suggested to consider organising one online session per biennium, basing on the experience gained in the hybrid sessions organized during the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the idea to both facilitate broader attendance and participation in the Sub-Committee’s activities according to the principle of the Agenda 2030 “Leaving no one behind” and also to avoid travelling with the aim to contribute to the principle of the Agenda 2030 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.
- (e) To ease the access by delegates to more detailed information and background information on Agenda 2030 and the review of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, the secretariat volunteered to insert a new entry on the homepage of the Committee of Experts and its sub-committees⁵

The TDG Sub-Committee agreed to coordinate with the GHS Sub-Committee on the follow-up actions listed above and to come back at the next session with a common recommendation for consideration.”.

(Ref.doc: ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2022/R.1/Add.7 paras 76 and 77: draft report of the TDG Sub-Committee on its 60th session, as amended)

⁵ unece.org/transport/dangerous-goods/ecosoc-bodies-dealing-chemicals-safety.