

## **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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**Forty-third session**

Geneva, 7-9 December 2022

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Work on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and  
Labelling of Chemicals: Use of non-animal testing methods  
for classification of health hazards**

## **Use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health hazards: Status report**

**Transmitted by the experts from the United Kingdom and the  
Netherlands on behalf of the informal working group**

### **Introduction**

1. This informal document provides an update on the work performed by the informal working group on “Use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health hazards” since the last update provided to the Sub-Committee at the forty-second session in July 2022.

### **Background**

2. At the thirty-ninth session, the Sub-Committee agreed to keep the work on the use of non-animal testing methods for classification of health and environmental hazard classes on its programme of work for the 2021-2022 biennium and updates on the progress of the work have been provided to the Sub-Committee at each session this biennium.

3. The informal working group presently has approximately 60 members, reflecting the importance of, and interest in, this work. Its membership includes experts with specialised knowledge of test methods and their application to classification, and experts on national legislation that implements GHS. Discussions are often lively and detailed, but overall are propelled by a strong desire to make progress on the informal working group’s mandate and ensure that non-animal test methods are consistently incorporated in the GHS in a way that reflects their growing importance and scientific relevance, whilst recognising their limitations.

### **Status report**

4. Since the last update to the Sub-Committee in July 2022, the informal working group has continued to work hard on the revision of Chapter 3.4 for skin sensitization for the inclusion of non-animal testing methods via correspondence, virtual meetings (1 September 2022; 6 October 2022; and 2 November 2022) and at a face-to-face informal group meeting that will be held during the forty-third

session in December 2022. After each meeting the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, the joint leads, with the assistance of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), have revised the draft text of Chapter 3.4, drafted meeting notes, and prepared papers on specific topics to take forward the discussions, taking into account written comments and information on specific topics provided by the participants.

5. The informal working group has put forward for the consideration of the Sub-Committee at this session formal proposals to revise Chapter 3.4 to incorporate non-animal testing methods for skin sensitization in relation to substances (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2022/14 and INF.3), together with conforming changes to Chapters 1.2, 3.2 and 3.3 (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2022/15). However, following the outcome of further discussions, the group proposes revised paragraphs and sections as detailed in the following documents: INF.8, INF.9, and INF.3/Rev.1.

6. In addition, the group was not able to reach a final agreement on the proposed revised text for paragraph 3.4.2.2.4.2, with the conforming change in paragraph 3.3.2.3.3, but is confident that this can be achieved during its working group meeting on the 7th December 2022, with the outcome provided to the Sub-Committee for their consideration at this session. To indicate that this text has not been finalised, it is shown in square brackets (i.e. “[...]”) in INF.8, INF.9, and INF.3/Rev.1.

## **Ongoing work**

7. Subject to the agreement of the Sub-Committee, the group anticipates continuing to work hard in the next biennium to revise Chapter 3.4 to incorporate non-animal testing methods for skin sensitization in relation to mixtures, together with resolving any outstanding issues in relation to skin sensitization from substances within the chapter, before moving onto the next item of work on the groups’ proposed work plan for the 2023-2024 biennium (see INF.16).

8. The Sub-Committee is invited to note the progress of the revision of Chapter 3.4 and the issues outlined in this informal document.

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