

GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM FOR THE CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

AGENDA-21

UNCED, Rio de Janeiro, June 1

Chapter 19: Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals ...

Programme B: Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals

Objectives

19-27. A globally harmonized hazard classification and compatible label system, including material safety data sheets and easily understandable symbols, should be available, if feasible, by the year 2000.

AREAS OF HARMONIZATION

Listed by Focal Point

HEALTH HAZARDS AND DANGER TO Focal point: OECD AG-H1 THE ENVIRONMENT

Hazardous to the Aquatic Environment

Hazardous to the Terrestrial Environment

Acute Toxicity

Irritation/Corrosion of Biological

Tissue (eye, skin)

Sensitization

Reproductive Toxicity

Germ Cell Mutagenicity

Carcinogenicity

Long-term Systemic Toxicity

Neurotoxicity and Immunotoxicity

METHODOLOGY

**Classification of
mixtures/preparations**

PHYSICAL HAZARDS

Reactivity

Flammability

Related Tests and Criteria

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

Labelling: minimum data element requirements; graphic hazard symb (pictograms, colours, frames); comprehensibility of written and graphic safety phrases.

Chemical safety data sheets. format; data elements; harmonization (phraseology; phraseology comprehensibility; means of dissemination (worldwide basis.

Training in hazard communication: (workplace, transport, consumer harmonization of principles for the elaboration of training packages for compilers and users.

AG-HCL Working Group

Germany/USA
Sweden/Germany
Australia/UK
Netherlands/UK/Germany
Norway/Netherlands
Belgium/USA
Focal point: OECD
Lead country: Canada

Focal points: UN CETDG,
Working Group chaired by the
Kingdom
Working Group chaired by
UN CETDG

BASIS FOR ACTION

The present Terms of Reference provide guiding principles, proceed workplans for undertaking the technical work for harmonizing existing classification and labelling of chemicals. They are based on the finding *1992 ILO Report on the Size of the Task of Harmonizing Existing System Classification and Labelling for Hazardous Chemicals*. In January 1992 Intersecretariat Committee of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), endorsed the establishment of a Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (CG/HCCS) to promote and oversee this work.

5. The following international instruments, Conference resolutions and intergovernmental and inter-organizational decisions are the basis for a work toward achieving a globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals:

(a) the 1989 ILO Resolution concerning harmonization of systems of classification and labelling for the use of hazardous chemicals at work

(b) the ILO Chemicals Convention (No. 170), 1990 and its accompanying Recommendation (No. 177);

(c) the 1992 UNCED Recommendations in Agenda 21, Chapter 1c, on environmentally sound management of chemicals, programme area

concerning harmonization of classification and labelling of toxic cher

(d) the Resolution on priorities for action, Programme area B, adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Chemical Safety after being called as the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety;

(e) the decision by the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to have the CG/HCCS report to the IOMC instead of the IPC

(f) the UN Economic and Social Council Resolution 1995/6 on the work of the Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods in the development of a harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals for the implementation of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21.

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