

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

Sixteenth session,
Geneva, 10 – 12 December 2008
Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS

Reports from Governments or organizations

Transmitted by the expert from Brazil

Introduction

1. The Brazilian government, through its Ministries, Agencies, Institutions and Foundations is working towards the implementation of the GHS. This task started in 2001 and since then dozens of activities were developed. Non-governmental organizations, especially from industry, developed many activities over the last few years such as organization of events, elaboration of GHS informational material, impact analysis studies, etc.

GT-GHS Brazil

2. The President of Brazil signed a Decree in 26th July 2007 formalizing the GT-GHS Working Group, which will have the responsibility to elaborate and propose strategies, guidelines, programs and plans of action.

3. In the second semester of 2008 two meetings took place, in Brasilia.

4. The Rules of Procedure were approved and the Terms of Reference are still being discussed. Following these tasks, decisions on implementation issues will be made (revision of legislation to be in line with GHS, transitional periods, application of the Building Block Approach, etc.).

Translation of the Purple Book into Portuguese

5. The process of translation of the Purple Book into Portuguese, sponsored by The Ministry of Health, is continuing.

6. In the second semester 2008 three meetings took place – two in Brasilia and one in Sao Paulo - for the harmonization of the translation of expressions and certain words, with the participation of more than 12 governmental and private institutions.
7. Chapters 2 and 4 were published for public comment in the Official Brazilian Journal in August. Chapters 1 and 3 will be published soon.
8. It is expected that the translation will be finished in the first quarter of 2009.

Awareness raising events

9. The following awareness raising events on GHS took place:
 - GHS and Household Cleaning Materials, organized by ABIPLA, in September, in Sao Paulo, with 80 participants;
 - GHS and TDG, organized by SINDIQUIM, ABIQUIM and the Ministry of Labour, in November, in Porto Alegre, with 120 participants;
 - GHS and REACH, seminar and one-day training course, organized by INMETRO in partnership with the European Union, in September, in Rio de Janeiro, with 40 participants;
 - GHS and its implementation, panel in 1st Congress of Contingency and Emergency Plan, organized by PETROBRAS, in September, in Rio de Janeiro, with 30 participants;
 - GHS and its implementation, panel in the Brazilian Congress of Occupational Hygiene, organized by ABHO, in September, in Recife, with 300 participants;
 - Explanation on GHS and its implementation, to the Brazilian Standing Tripartite Commission (CTPP), responsible for health & safety regulations, from the Ministry of Labour, in November, in Brasilia.

Standards based on GHS

10. The Brazilian Association of Technical Standards (ABNT), through the Commission of Studies of Information on Safety, Health and Environment related to Chemicals (CB-10), issued standards (Terminology, Classification, Labelling and SDS) which are based on the GHS for public comments.
11. The task is finished and the approved standards will be published soon.

Latin America Mission

12. A representative of the Ministry of Health of Chile visited Brazil in October. The purpose of the visit was to share experiences with the implementation of the GHS, to be informed about the status of implementation of the GHS in Brazil and to visit the Ministries (Health, Labour, Trade and Environment) and the chemical industry association (ABIQUIM) involved in GHS issues, in Brasilia and Sao Paulo.
-