

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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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Development of guidance on the application of GHS criteria

Guidance on the application of GHS criteria to petroleum substances, a class of Unknown or Variable Composition, Complex Reaction Products or Biological Materials (UVCBs)

**Transmitted by the International Petroleum Industry Environmental
Conservation Association (IPIECA)**

Background

1. IPIECA has developed guidance on the application of the GHS criteria to petroleum substances. IPIECA has developed this guidance through close consultation with the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (Sub-Committee or UNSCEGHS).
2. The guidance includes a Technical Support Document where the principles of the guidance are explained using relevant scientific literature.

Benefits of the guidance

3. IPIECA believes that utilization of the guidance will result in global harmonization of hazard classification of petroleum substances broadly traded in international commerce. Additional benefits of the guidance are:
 - (a) Application of the “grouping” or “category” concept, resulting in a full use of available data thereby minimizing the need for animal testing;
 - (b) Transparent use of GHS principles for the classification of complex, multi-constituent substances;
 - (c) Consistent and reliable classification of petroleum substances, resulting in appropriate hazard communication aiming to reduce the risks arising from the storage and handling of petroleum substances; and
 - (d) Consistent classification reduces costs for industry and countries.
4. IPIECA encourages countries and industry to fully utilize this guidance in the application of the GHS criteria to petroleum substances. By providing relevant sector-specific guidance, the hazard classification of petroleum substances should be globally consistent regardless of regional differences in the implementation of GHS or classification of individual petroleum substance constituents.

Current status of the guidance

5. IPIECA has reformatted the guidance into an IPIECA publication and out of the required paper format for UNSCEGHS meetings. IPIECA has published the guidance on the IPIECA website at:

<http://www.ipieca.org/good-practice/guidance-application-globally-harmonized-system-ghs-criteria-petroleum-substances>.

6. Version 1 of the guidance dated 17 June 2010 addresses, where appropriate, comments received on the guidance by competent authorities since the 17th session of the Sub-Committee. The guidance and related Technical Support Document includes document history summaries to track changes to the guidance.

IPIECA work plan to ensure validity and transparency of the guidance

7. IPIECA will periodically revise this guidance to ensure the guidance reflects current research and scientific developments; is consistent with updated versions of the GHS; and incorporates future comments by competent authorities. As appropriate, IPIECA will update the UNSCEGHS on changes to the guidance. Comments on this guidance are welcome and should be sent to Rob Cox of IPIECA at Rob.Cox@ipieca.org.
