

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 hazard assessment of ores and concentrates for marine transport

**Transmitted by the International Council on Mining and Metals
(ICMM)**

Introduction

1. Growing demand for metals and greater societal awareness of their potential chemical hazards means there is a greater need to demonstrate they are produced, transported and used safely. One recent example has been the amendment of transport codes by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to put greater emphasis on understanding risks to ships crews and the marine environment from bulk cargoes – including ores and concentrates. The new regulations rely on GHS criteria as a basis for hazard identification.
2. In a new guidance document, launched on 15 October, ICMM has set out the approach to meeting these demands that leading mining and metals associations have developed in collaboration with scientific experts from research institutes around the world. This builds upon the GHS guidance and demonstrates how it can be best applied in meeting the IMO transport requirements.
3. **The document is freely available at:** <http://www.icmm.com/publication/hazard-assessment-ores-and-concentrates>.

About the ICMM Guidance

4. The IMO's International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code (IMSBC) and the Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) contain cargo assessment criteria that are well understood and drawn from the GHS. Practically however, there are significant challenges to address for assessing ores and concentrates – including the inherent complexity and variation in their composition. This means that knowledge of which parts of the GHS are applicable and how they should be applied is vital.
5. The guidance developed is based on the latest scientific principles and accounts for the differences in data availability and testing facilities that may be experienced by companies around the world. Through application of this guidance we hope to promote a consistent and responsible approach for assessing cargoes governed within the IMO mandate. The guidance is relevant to mining companies (as shippers of cargoes) but also to

shipmasters and port authorities who need to be confident that there is a valid scientific basis for the cargo hazard declarations that they receive.

6. In the first week following its release on 15 October, the document was downloaded nearly 10,000 times and has been well-received by stakeholders in the mining, chemicals and shipping sectors

Sharing with GHS practitioners

7. ICMM **invites** the Sub-Committee to note this guidance and **consider** adding a link to this publication under Section 2: “Sector-specific guidance” on the secretariat’s website page: Guidance on the application of GHS criteria (<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/guidance.html>).

8. Hard copies of the publication will be available in the meeting room and can also be obtained upon request from ICMM.
