



Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/23
29 September 2004

Original: ENGLISH

**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

Eighth session, 6-9 December 2004
Item 2(b) of the provisional agenda

**UPDATING OF THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND
LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)**

Health hazards

Clarification of Chapter 3.2, Skin Corrosion/Irritation

Transmitted by the expert from Sweden

1. At the 7th Session of the Sub-Committee, the expert from Sweden introduced a paper (UN/SCEGHS/7/INF.11) suggesting that the Sub-Committee look further into the issue of classification of substances and mixtures which may not show an irritating or corrosive property in their dry state but may produce skin corrosion or irritation in contact with moist skin or mucous membranes.
2. After a brief discussion, during which some participants indicated their view that these effects would be covered automatically by the existing GHS as a result of test conditions, it was suggested that any perceived problem could be solved by the addition of an appropriate clarifying footnote in Chapter 3.2 (see the Report of the Sub-Committee of Experts on its 7th Session, ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/14, para. 28)
3. The advantages of this approach are that it deals with the issue promptly and therefore avoids delays or any perceived gaps in coverage of these effects.
4. Therefore, the Sub-Committee is invited to adopt the following clarifying amendment to Chapter 3.2.

At the end of Section 3.2.2.2, add the following note:

***NOTE :** Whereas liquid substances are tested neat, solid substances should be ground to fine powder and evaluated in the presence of water or an appropriate solvent in order to determine if irritation or corrosion may result when the solid substance is in contact with moist skin or mucous membranes.*
