

GHS Sub-Committee

# GHS Sub-Committee

It is a ECOSOC subsidiary body responsible for:

- (a) Acting as custodian of the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals, managing and giving direction to the harmonization process;
- (b) Keeping the system up to date, as necessary, considering the need to introduce changes to ensure its continued relevance and practical utility, and determining the need for and timing of the updating of technical criteria, while working with existing bodies, as appropriate;
- (c) Promoting understanding and use of the system and encourage feedback;
- (d) Making the system available for worldwide use and application;
- (e) Making guidance available on the application of the system, and on the interpretation and use of technical criteria to support consistency of application;
- (f) Preparing work programmes and submit recommendations to the Committee

# GHS Sub-Committee

- GHS Sub-Committee focal points:
  - For physical hazards: ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the transport of dangerous goods (TDG Sub-Committee)
  - For health and environmental hazards: OECD
  - For hazard communication: ILO
  - For training and capacity building: UNITAR/ILO

# GHS Sub-Committee: Composition

- 36 full members:
  - Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America
- All other UN member States can participate as observers (i.e: without the possibility to cast a vote)
- A large number of NGOs representing the interests of the chemical industry worldwide also participate in the sessions as observers
- United Nations entities (UNITAR, ILO, UNEP...) as well as intergovernmental organisations (OECD, EU...) can also participate as observers)

# GHS Sub-Committee: meetings and programme of work

- Works on a 2-year cycle (current cycle: 2021-2022)
- Meets twice a year (usually in July and December) in Geneva
- Simultaneous interpretation into Spanish is provided during the sessions
- Calendar of meetings: <https://unece.org/info/events/unece-meetings-and-events/transport/dangerous%20goods>
- Programme of work for each biennium: adopted every two years (even years) by the parent Committee and endorsed by ECOSOC
  - Programme of work for 2021-2022: see Annex II to document [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/ST-SG-AC10-C4-78e\\_0.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/ST-SG-AC10-C4-78e_0.pdf)

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- Given the current low representation of Latin American countries, their participation in the sessions would be most welcome
- Participation would give them the possibility:
  - To be involved in the discussions on all the proposals submitted for consideration by the Sub-Committee
  - To benefit from the experience of a large number of experts on implementation issues at national and regional level
  - To make the Sub-Committee aware of specific challenges and difficulties encountered with implementation in the region and get technical support and advice to address them
  - To inform the Sub-Committee about progress with GHS implementation in the region

# GHS Sub-Committee: outcomes

- At the end of each biennium, the Sub-Committee presents a set of recommendations to the Committee, i.e.: a list of amendments to the GHS
- Once the amendments have been endorsed by the Committee and ECOSOC, they are incorporated into a new revised version of the GHS
- The latest published revised edition is Rev.8 (2019):  
<https://unece.org/ghs-rev8-2019>
- GHS Rev.9 will be published by the end of June 2021

# GHS Sub-Committee

For additional information about the work of the Sub-Committee, you may wish to contact the secretariat:

Rosa Garcia Couto ([rosa.garciacouto@un.org](mailto:rosa.garciacouto@un.org))

All information about the GHS and the work of the Sub-Committee is available at: <https://unece.org/transport/dangerous-goods>