

Meeting Summary

Consumer Chemical Sector Working Group (CCSWG) Third Meeting (Teleconference) June 15, 2004 (2:00 pm to 4:00 pm)

Present:

Jill Courtemanche - Canadian Association of Poison Control Centres
Stephen Rathlou - Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association
Stan Sandler - Packaging Association of Canada
Gurjinder Gill - Soap and Detergent Association of Canada
Anne McConnell - Soap and Detergent Association of Canada
Sarfaraz Dhalla - Adhesives and Sealants Manufacturers Association of Canada
Lorraine Bennett - Canadian Paint and Coatings Association
Lisa Wardell - Consumer Product Safety Bureau, Health Canada (Chairperson)
Ken Loewen - Consumer Product Safety Bureau, Health Canada
Claude Chartrand and Richard Garon - Consumer Product Safety, Quebec Region
Madeleine Camm for Shannon Coombs - Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association

Observers:

Brenda Everson - Policy and Programme Services, Health Canada
Linda Toy - WHMIS Program, Health Canada
Cecylia Bilous - Regional Manager CPS, Alberta & NWT, Health Canada

Regrets:

Paul J. Thériault - Direct Sellers Association of Canada/Association de ventes directes du Canada
Doug DeRabbie - Retail Council of Canada
Milton Tenenbein - Canadian Association of Poison Control Centres
Shannon Coombs - Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association
Jacqui Jensky - Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association

Meeting Summary:

Agenda item 1 - Welcome, Member Introductions

- Participants of teleconference introduced themselves and their affiliation.
- The agenda (PACER) was reviewed and accepted.
- An update on some other working groups was provided.

The purpose and expectations for the meeting were as follows:

- To begin discussions on the Flammable Hazard Classes using the discussion guide and the Situational Analysis document. (No positions or preferred options were required at this time).

Update on Other Activities:

The first General Issues Committee (GIC) meeting was held on June 8, 2004. Notes for the meeting will be posted on the Health Canada GHS web site.

The Pesticide Sector Working Group held meetings on May 27 and 28 and two more meetings for the end of June were being planned.

The first WHMIS Classification Working Group meeting was scheduled for June 17.

An Ad Hoc Expert Group for Environmental Hazards is being formed for a possible meeting at the end of June. This group will examine whether, and if so how, environmental hazards should be covered by the existing systems in Canada. The CCSWG have nominated one representative thus far. Members were asked to consider their participation for this Group.

The U.S. held an inter-agency meeting regarding the implementation of the GHS. Contacts with CPSC colleagues are to be made again over the summer.

Agenda Item 2 – Discussions on the Flammable Hazard Classes

Members began discussions regarding the flammable hazard classes using the discussion guide and the Situational Analysis.

Members were invited to recommend any additional options or add any comments, noting that it may take a series of meetings to consider all of the options and to be able to prioritize them.

Highlights from Discussions:

- Flammable Gases – remove references to flammable aerosols e.g., only aerosols with flammable propellants are classified under GHS Flammable Aerosols, aerosols with non-flammable propellants are not – this is misleading. Recommendation made to delete paragraph on spray containers from this section of the discussion guide.
- GHS prescribed wording (signal word and hazard statement) have been translated or are being translated into a number of different languages. The GHS purple book is being translated into 6 UN languages and believe the EU may translate for the approximately 17 EU languages.

- The impact of the GHS on the CCCR, 2001 is being examined through the work of the CCSWG. The CCSWG will make recommendations on changes that are needed in order to implement the GHS. The Minister of Health will ultimately make the decisions regarding the implementation of the GHS.
- For flammable gas mixtures believe there should be a precedence of using available test results over calculation method. Questioned why calculation method referenced when testing is easy.
- Flammable Aerosols: Under CCCR, 2001 when a spray container cannot be opened, then flashpoint is not used as classification criteria.
- Question was raised as to when members will have an opportunity to express preferences for options. This will be addressed when the options paper is prepared in the fall.
- Flammable Liquids: Opinion expressed that GHS will increase the number of products covered under Category 3 and that Category 4 not necessary. A suggestion was made to consult with other sectors to see how they will be approaching this – believe Transport will not be adopting Category 4.
- Flammable Solids: may or may not include some gels or pastes, however, GHS includes the word “pasty” in describing solids. Find out more information on this. A suggestion was made to refer to ASTM standard for determining whether a solid is a liquid or a solid for regulatory purposes.
- A question was raised regarding maintaining the exemptions for products that do not sustain combustion. Under the CCCR, 2001 there are currently exemptions for products that do not sustain combustion. It will be verified if these exemptions may be outside of the scope of the GHS. These exemptions may also be included in recommendations to be made by the sector. It was believed that other sectors such as Transport have similar exemptions. Information will be shared with Transport to see how they will approach the issue when GHS is implemented.
- Flammable Vapours emitted from a solid, gel or paste may be covered by GHS flammable liquid criteria (to be verified).

Agenda Item 3 - Wrap-Up, Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place in the fall. Details to follow proposing two possible dates. The teleconference ended at approximately 11:30 am.