



Meeting Summary

Consumer Chemical Sector Working Group (CCSWG)

Fourth Meeting (Teleconference)

October 26, 2004 (1:30 pm to 3:00 pm EST)

Present:

Jacqui Jensky - Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association
Shannon Coombs - 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
Lorraine Bennett - Canadian Paint and Coatings Association
Lisa Wardell - Consumer Product Safety Bureau, Health Canada (Chairperson)
Ken Loewen - Consumer Product Safety Bureau, Health Canada
Cecylia Bilous - Regional Manager CPS, Alberta & NWT, Health Canada

Observers:

Linda Toy - WHMIS Program, Health Canada
Richard Garon - Consumer Product Safety, Quebec Region

Regrets:

Jill Courtemanche - Canadian Association of Poison Control Centres
Stephen Rathlou - Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association
Sarfaraz Dhalla - Adhesives and Sealants Manufacturers Association of Canada
Ross Creber - 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
Larry Stoffman – Canadian Labour Congress
Mae Burrows – Labour Environmental Alliance Society

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 of the work plan was added to the agenda.

The purpose and expectations for the meeting were as follows:

- To begin discussions on the Skin Corrosion/Irritation and Serious Eye Damage/Eye Irritation 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 Pest Control Products Sector Working Group held two meetings at the end of June regarding the remaining physical hazards, as well as the skin and eye corrosion/irritation and sensitisation hazard classes.

The WHMIS Classification Working Group held meetings in July, September and October on acute toxicity, physical hazards and corrosion and irritation.

The first General Issues Committee (GIC) meeting was held on June 8. The GIC is a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder committee that will act as a sounding board on the implementation of the GHS. There is a tentative GIC meeting planned for January 21, 2005 (face-to-face) following the WHMIS Current Issues Committee (CIC) meeting.

The Ad Hoc Expert Group for Environmental Hazards held its first meeting on September 9. The Group is examining whether consumer products, pest control products and workplace chemicals may be subject to the environmental hazard classification criteria and labelling provisions of the GHS. A second meeting is planned for November 4.

Members had been informed by e-mail regarding some activity in the United States, specifically the release of the Environmental Protection Agency's white paper (outlining how they will be implementing the GHS) and the announcement of a bill from Senator Enzi referencing the GHS. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Health Canada have begun corresponding at the technical level regarding GHS implementation and possible coordination. The CPSC have announced that they have begun working internally on the GHS.

Updated Work plan

The updated work plan dated October 12, 2004 was reviewed. The first table (Work plan Overview with Milestones) was basically the same as presented in May.

The second table (Technical Consultations) was modified to reflect the dates for the first three discussions (April, June and October 2004). A meeting is tentatively planned for mid December to cover the remaining hazard classes. Quick skin-bonding adhesives will also be examined to determine if the current criteria will be impacted by the GHS.

In January 2005, an issue paper will be prepared outlining the various hazard classes currently covered and options for implementation. This will allow members to begin preparing their positions and/or preferred options. In March, a meeting is being proposed (perhaps face-to-face) to begin working toward developing a proposal.

For the third table of the work plan (Ad Hoc Expert Working Groups), the chronic hazards ad hoc expert group may begin its discussions early in 2005.

Agenda Item 2 – Discussions on the Skin Corrosion/Irritation and Serious Eye Damage/Eye Irritation Hazard Classes

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

Members were invited to recommend any additional options or add any comments.

Highlights from Discussions:

- Include as an option to harmonize implementation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Some members would like to wait and see how the U.S. will adopt the GHS endpoints and align with those.
- Notwithstanding the above, there is also a need to determine our preferred options and to highlight the merits of those options should they be different from the U.S..
- Both systems for consumer chemicals in Canada and the U.S. will be required to be changed to implement the GHS and opportunity to truly harmonize exists. Labels should be the same in both countries for the same product.
- Impact of harmonization may be greater for small and medium sized companies.
- The Situation Analysis will need to be corrected to reflect the labelling requirements for eye irritants under the CCCR, 2001. Under the CCCR, 2001, eye irritants require only the specific hazard statement “May Irritate Eyes”.

Agenda Item 3 - Wrap-Up, Next Meeting:

The next meeting may take place in December. Details to follow proposing possible dates. The teleconference ended at approximately 3:00 pm.