



Meeting Summary

Consumer Chemical Sector Working Group (CCSWG) Seventh Meeting (Teleconference) June 28, 2005 (1:30 pm to 3:00 pm EST)

Present:

Stephen Rathlou - Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association
Jacqui Jensky - Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association
Stan Sandler - Packaging Association of Canada
Anne McConnell - Soap and Detergent Association of Canada
Lorraine Bennett - Canadian Paint and Coatings Association
Patty Anacleto - Adhesives and Sealants Manufacturers Association of Canada
Lisa Wardell - Consumer Product Safety Bureau, Health Canada (Chairperson)
Ken Loewen - Consumer Product Safety Bureau, Health Canada
Catia Messier - Consumer Product Safety, Quebec Region

Observers:

Karen Kohrman – U.S. Consumer Specialty Products Association
Linda Toy - WHMIS Program, Health Canada
Brenda Everson – Policy and Programme Services, Health Canada
Kailash Gupta – U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)
Pierre Petelle, Deborah Ramsingh, Lisa Woods – Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Bruce Rebel - Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association

Meeting Summary:

Agenda item 1 - Welcome, Member Introductions

- Participants of teleconference were introduced.
- The agenda (PACER) was reviewed and accepted.

The purpose and expectations for the meeting were as follows:

1. To review the six areas where consensus was not reached at the March 2005 face-to-face meeting and to discuss the proposed compromises as a way of moving forward in developing recommendations for the implementation of the GHS.
2. Begin a preliminary discussion on the new Category 3 for Target Organ System Toxicity - Single Exposure. (A discussion document is to be developed in advance of the next meeting outlining revised options for this hazard class).
3. Begin a preliminary discussion regarding the GHS physical hazards not currently addressed for consumer chemicals. (A discussion document is to be developed in advance of the next meeting outlining proposed approaches/options).

Update on Other Activities:

Both the WHMIS Working Group and Pesticide Sector Working Group are continuing with their consultations and the development of recommendations.

The Ad Hoc Expert Group for Chronic Hazards held its third meeting on June 15 and is at the stage of developing options for addressing the chronic hazards of consumer chemical products. A discussion document is expected later this summer and another meeting will be held in October.

On May 16, 2005, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published an advanced notice for rulemaking, which is an indication that they will begin working on GHS implementation for workplace chemicals in the US. More details are expected later this summer.

Agenda Item 2 - Highlights from Discussions:

It is anticipated that “interim” recommendations will be developed by late Fall. Where consensus is not achieved, all positions will be presented. The term “interim” will be used for the recommendations, given that they may need to be revisited based on recommendations made in other sectors and discussions with NAFTA partners.

Members reviewed the following six areas of non-consensus and the proposed compromises with agreements reached in some areas. Members who were not present would be consulted to find out if they had concerns with any of the agreements.

- 1) Acute Toxicity: Members present agreed with the proposed compromise.
- 2) Serious Eye Damage/Irritation: Members present agreed with the proposed compromise.
- 3) Skin Corrosion/Irritation: Members present agreed with proposed compromise with an addition of also waiting for the U.S. CPSC position.
- 4) Aspiration Toxicity: Members present did not agree with the proposed compromise. Members suggested that this be put on hold following further discussions with U.S. on the science and whether they will adopt Category 2.
- 5) Flammable Liquids: Members present agreed with the proposed compromise. Members expressed concern that the term “unnecessary” should be added as follows under the Concerns section: “Category 4 is viewed as an unnecessary increase in protection from current requirements”. Members expressed that in a consumer setting, products are unlikely to encounter temperatures in the range of Category 4.

- 6) TOST – Single Exposure: Members present agreed to postpone any decisions on this hazard class following discussion on the new Category 3. Members expressed concern that classification should be based primarily on human information. Discussion guide with options is to be prepared for next meeting.
- For those action items from the March 2005 meeting such as the use of the GHS symbols for other related hazard classes not covered by the GHS, a paper will be drafted in the Fall for possible presentation to the UN Sub-Committee of Experts for the GHS in December 2005.
 - Members were provided with a preliminary overview of the new Category 3 for Target Organ System Toxicity – Single Exposure. Members expressed concern regarding the extent and applicability of the criteria for Category 3. For example, does this apply to a cleaner containing alcohol? Would classification be required if the narcotic effects would only occur under abuse situations and not under reasonable foreseeable use*?

*The term “reasonably foreseeable use” means that a supplier must consider the various ways in which a product might be used by the general public, regardless of the original intent. Although chemical products are not intended to be consumed, the swallowing of a product by a child is considered to be reasonably foreseeable use. However, intentional abuse, such as chemical substance abuse, suicide or criminal uses would not be included.

- Members began a preliminary discussion regarding the GHS physical hazard not currently addressed for consumer chemicals. Various approaches were discussed including adopting the GHS in the event that consumer chemicals posing these hazards may be sold in the future, or the prohibition of very hazardous products. A discussion document will be developed in advance of the next meeting outlining proposed approaches/options.
- Regarding the chronic hazards, CCSWG members would like to have input on the options being developed by the Ad Hoc Expert Group for Chronic Hazards. The recommendations will be presented to the CCSWG once the work of the Ad Hoc Expert Group is completed. A copy of the draft discussion document will be sent to CCSWG members.

Agenda Item 3 - Wrap-Up, Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place in the Fall. Details to follow in September proposing possible dates. The teleconference ended at approximately 3:00 pm.