General Issues Committee for Canadian Implementation of GHS
Meeting Summary
22 June 2006

In attendance:

Kim Headrick	Stephen Rathlou	Shannon Coombs
Peter MacLeod	David Leong	Jacques Cerf
Otto Peter	Colleen Dimock	Larry Stoffman
Claude Chartrand	Abbey Klugerman	Pierre Petelle
Bill Chedore	Lisa Woods for Brenda Linke	
Brenda Everson		

Regrets:

Yves Brissette	Jeff Bennie	Brian Kohler
David Lamarche	Bob Whiting	

Observers:

Linda Toy	Bruce Rebel	Rachelle Yazdani

Purpose: To provide updates and status report on Canadian implementation and on international activities.

Documentation was provided to the participants before the meeting. The Chair reviewed the material during the teleconference. Questions, answers and discussions followed.

1 Update on International activity (Kim Headrick)

- See document entitled *Implementation of GHS--- International Activity* [web link]
- Question on whether or not the countries working towards implementation were doing "full implementation" (ie. all the GHS criteria) or "partial implementation" and how much harmonization there will be
- Response:
  - There are ongoing discussions within countries concerning which parts of the GHS to be implemented.
  - The UNSEGHS is expected to examine country/sector implementation as implementation information becomes available.
  - the Canadian Sectoral Comparison Document at the UNSEGHS would be used to get the discussions started and encourage countries to submit similar documents

2 Update on US / NAFTA activity (Kim Headrick)

- See document entitled *Implementation of GHS--- US / NAFTA Activity* [web link]
- Discussion around developing guidelines for which criteria should be adopted, eg. Environmental hazards, and coordination in North America

- In the European Union, three of the four sectors are administered from the same Directive

3 <u>Update on Canadian activity</u> (Kim Headrick)

- See document entitled *Implementation of GHS--- Canadian Activity* [web link]
- ad hoc Expert Group on Environmental Hazard: a document summarizing the Expert Group work was prepared and submitted to the Sectoral Working Groups for consideration
- ad hoc Expert Group on Chronic Hazards for Consumer Chemicals: more information will be distributed to this working group very shortly.
- Labour reiterated the position that the removal of an entire class (ie. environmental hazard) was not appropriate to implementing GHS
- It was noted that US CPSC and US OSHA did not have the statutory authority for environmental labelling
- There was some concern about the status of discussion presented in the 23 February 2006 document. It was noted that the document states: "The document reflects the current status of preferred options for adoption (indicated by "yes") up to the specified date. The technical consultations are not completed. These results are subject to change."

Sectoral Working Group progress reports

Pest Control Products Sector Working Group (PSWG) (Pierre Petelle)

Technical Consultations

- April 2005 release of hazard classification options discussion document and June conference call- relatively little feedback.

- Decision was made to proceed to development of transition discussion document. Pre-market evaluation and label approval for pest control products means significant implications for converting the 7000 or so registered products to the GHS. Document examines the issues surrounding transitioning all existing registered products to the GHS over a reasonable time period. It is near completion however release has been delayed due to other priorities and analysis of new options. Once released a PSWG meeting shortly will be called.

Links with US counterparts

- GHS is a regular agenda item on the NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides
- The US Environmental Agency Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) released a comparison document prior to the Charleston meeting. The document outlines similarities and differences in proposed approaches. Future discussions will be held.
- The OPP and PMRA continue to share information as it is made available.

- PMRA made presentations on GHS in 2005:
  - Chemical Producers and Distributors Association in Washington in March 2006 which included PMRA, EPA, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and
  - joint Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association and Soap and Detergent Association conference in Toronto.

Next Steps:
- Transition discussion document release this summer; PSWG meeting early autumn.
- Continued outreach and information exchange with stakeholders and NAFTA partners.

Discussion:
- Question regarding current status of preferred options in February 23, 2006 Sector Comparison document indicates that for pest control products, GHS labelling would not be adopted for chronic hazards or aquatic toxicity. Classification would still occur given that PMRA does a full risk assessment, resulting in limiting amount of exposure and mitigating risk. The product would not be registered if there was a big concern. PMRA clarified that for the aquatics, only chronic aquatic toxicity was not being adopted.

- Labour does not support the recommendation of the application of environmental and chronic hazard criteria with no labelling and is strongly opposed to risk vs. hazard argument in the areas where pest control products will not be labelled with the GHS.

  Action:
  - *This issue will be brought back to the PSWG for further discussion.*

WHMIS Working Group (WWG) (Abbey Klugerman)

- The WHMIS Working Group (WWG) is a working group of the WHMIS Current Issues Committee (CIC) which is the established forum for consultation on matters concerning the interpretation or modification of WHMIS. The CIC enables Health Canada, in part, to meet the legislated requirement of section 19 of the *Hazardous Products Act* (HPA) to consult with WHMIS stakeholders prior to making any modifications to the federal WHMIS legislation and regulations on behalf of the Minister of Health. Its role is to make recommendations to departments and agencies responsible for WHMIS legislation including recommendations for modifications to WHMIS or changes in its scope. Stakeholders include the Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission; the thirteen provincial, territorial, and federal government bodies responsible for occupational safety and health; and other groups representing industry, employers and organized labour. The CIC operates on an ongoing basis and serves as the forum for the continued development and application of WHMIS. Once the preferred options of the WWG for GHS implementation are made, they are discussed by the full CIC in order to reach consensus agreement on recommendations to the Minister of Health.

- To date, all WHMIS and GHS physical and health hazard and communication options have been discussed by the WWG in 15 teleconferences and a set of preferred options

have been made to the CIC at two face-to-face meetings on most of the issues. The CIC has made a series of recommendations. Some preferred options were accepted, for some, a different option was accepted by the whole CIC and some were sent back to the WWG for further discussion. The comparison document contains many of the preferred options and agreements by the WWG and CIC.

Links with US counterparts

- At this time there are no formal links to the WHMIS counterpart, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). There continue to be informal discussions with Jennifer Silk. After the US publishes the Advance Notice of Proposed Rule making (ANPR) we are hoping to set-up formal bilateral discussions between the National Office of WHMIS and US OSHA.

Next Steps:

- In the coming year, the WWG plans to discuss or revisit, type G for organic peroxides and self reactive substances, aspiration hazards, environmental hazards, labelling of multi-containers, kits, small volume containers, lab samples, biohazard – hazard statement, concentration ranges, disclosure of hazardous ingredients, label format and transition options. We hope to have another CIC meeting in the new calendar year. Please be aware that WHMIS is different because we are a Federal/Provincial/Territorial (F/P/T) partnership and changes to WHMIS will cause downstream effects for our partners. To that end they have begun reviewing effects of GHS on their model Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and ultimately F/P/T WHMIS-OSH regulations.

Consumer Chemicals Sector Working Group (Claude Chartrand)

Technical consultations

- On April 20, 2006 a teleconference was held to discuss Target Organ Systemic Toxicity single exposure and physical hazards
- Environmental hazard criteria are currently assess by the working group through written consultations.

- Waiting for the ad hoc expert group report on Chronic hazard criteria before discussion

Status on recommendations / proposals

- Consultation on the chronic hazard will occur in the Fall once the report for the ad hoc expert group is received.

Sector Comparison document (distributed March 1)

This document is a snap shot of the status as of 23 February 2006.

The Chair plans on submitting this document to the July 2006 meeting of the United Nations Sub-committee of Experts on GHS. This would be an example of the type of document which can be produced to display information on the status and to start discussions internationally.

There were several questions and positions stated about the content of the document, how the information was derived, the participation in the sectoral working groups and general implementation of GHS in Canada.

Industry:

- harmonization across sectors is desirable, but harmonization within sectors is very important.

Labour:

- the major gains in consumer chemicals and pest control products is the right-to-know through labelling.
- this has been lost by proposals to not adopt the ghs in this critical area. If Canada agrees not to implement the GHS in labelling these critical products it will have reneged on its agreement with the GHS framework document. Labour is adamantly opposed to this.
- in the document, the status for pest control products was derived without input from Labour
- Labour is a member of the Pest Control Products Sectoral Working Group.

Action items:

- *Sector Chairs to submit material to update the GHS web site.*
- *Sector Chairs to update membership information and send working group meeting information to Bill Chedore.*

4 <u>Wrap up/Next steps</u>

- There was no date set for the next meeting. One will be called when there are enough agenda items for discussion.
- The documents distributed before the meeting will be posted on the GHS website. There will be a change in format to comply with the Government of Canada rules on web posting, but the content will remain the same.