

# Shaping future developments at the UN level

Dr Robin Foster

International Chemicals Unit

Health & Safety Executive

London, UK

17 June 2009

# Key messages



- CLP Regulation adopts in Europe the GHS
- GHS driven and developed at UN level
  - Ongoing biennial work programme
- To influence the future, you must feed into the UN discussions

# GHS - A short history



- **1992** – Rio Earth Summit (UNCED)
  - International Mandate ‘Agenda 21’  
*“a globally harmonised hazard classification and labelling system, including safety data sheets and easily understandable symbols”*
- **2002** – Johannesburg – UN World Summit on sustainable development
  - 2008 deadline for implementation



# GHS - A short history (cont)



- UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of chemicals (UNCETDG/GHS)
- Two subcommittees:
  - Transport Dangerous Goods (UNSCETDG)
  - Globally Harmonised System (UNSCEGHS)

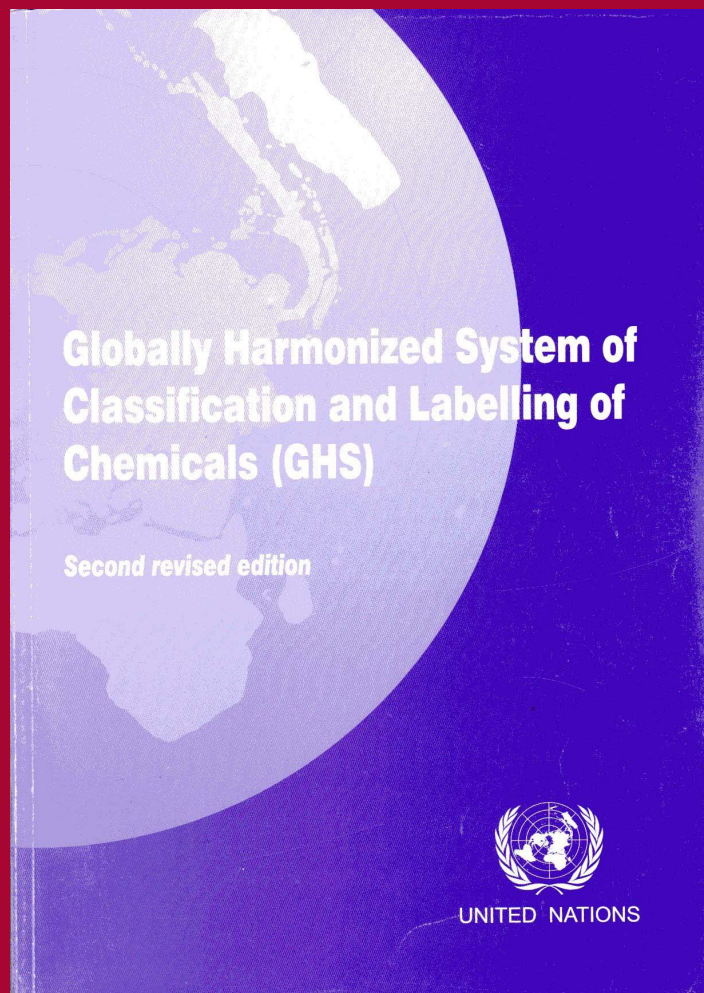
# UNSCEGHS



## Functions of the UNSCEGHS

- To act as a custodian of the GHS, managing and giving direction to the harmonisation process
- To keep the GHS system up-to-date ...
- To promote understanding and use of the GHS ...
- To make the GHS available for worldwide use and application
- To make guidance available on the application of the GHS ...
- To prepare work programmes ...

# UNSCGHS



- ‘Purple book’
- First published 2003
- 1st revised edition 2005
- 2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition 2007
- 3<sup>rd</sup> revised edition 2009
- UNSCGHS has a 2 year work-programme to update and amend the GHS text

# UNSCGHS



## UNSCGHS work programme for 2009 – 2010

- Issues relating to specific hazards
  - Explosives, chemically unstable gases and mixtures, corrosive to metals, ...
- Revision of Chapters 3.2 and 3.3 of the 'Purple Book'
- Identifying / resolving practical implementation issues
- Improving Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the 'Purple Book'
- Labelling of small packages
- Assisting UNITAR, ILO, WHO/IPCS, FAO, and other organisations / agencies in training
- .....

# CLP and UN GHS



- Recital 77 of CLP
  - “In particular the Commission should be empowered to adapt this Regulation to technical and scientific progress, including amendments made at UN level to the GHS ...”
- Article 53(1) of CLP
  - “The Commission may adjust and adapt Articles ... and Annexes I to VII to technical and scientific progress, including taking due account of the further development of the GHS ...”



# CLP and UN GHS



- Annex I of the CLP adopts:
  - All 27 UN GHS hazard classes
  - 77 out of 84 UN GHS hazard categories
- Future developments agreed in the UNSCEGHS will be incorporated into the CLP
- Only scope to differ
  - Where EU doesn't take that 'building block'
  - UN GHS specifically allows CA to choose between options

# CLP and UN GHS



So, if EU (MS, social partners, other interested parties) want to influence how the hazards of chemicals are identified and described, then essential to feed into in UNSCEGHS discussions !



# UNSCGHS



- Meets twice a year in Geneva
  - July and December
- Is a large group
  - 32 member states, 18 observer states, EU, OECD, ILO, IMO, WHO, 24 NGOs
- Does much of its work in smaller / correspondence groups
- Works by consensus
- Is open and transparent
  - Agendas, papers, minutes, list of members etc on the web

# UNSCEGHS



# NGOs participating in UNSCEGHS



AEGPL

AISE

CEFIC

CGA

Croplife International

DGAC

EFMA

EIGA

FEA

IATA

ICCA

ICCR

ICMM

ICPP

IFPCM

IFCTU

IME

IOHA

IPIECA

IPPIC

ISO

RCMASA

SAAMI

SDA

# Further information



- Main UNECE website
  - <http://www.unece.org/Welcome.html>
- UNSCEGHS meetings, agendas, papers, heads of delegation, etc
  - <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/c4age.html>
- Future work programme UNSCEGHS
  - [http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/GHS\\_pow09-10.pdf](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc4/GHS_pow09-10.pdf)
- EC GHS webpage
  - [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/ghs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/ghs/index_en.htm)

Thank You

The End