



## COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS



### Regulating hazardous chemicals to enhance protection of human health and environment during their transport, handling and use

Work on the development and harmonization of provisions to ensure the safe transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport started in 1953. In 1999, the Committee was reconfigured and its mandate was extended to cover worldwide harmonization of all regulatory regimes (e.g. transport; workplace safety; consumer protection; environment protection) addressing classification and labelling of hazardous chemicals. The Committee meets once every two years, while its two subcommittees meet back-to-back twice every year.

### UN main policymaking body for the development of worldwide harmonized provisions for classification, labelling, safe transport, handling and use of chemicals

At its tenth session (11 December 2020), the Committee:

- Endorsed the recommendations of its two subcommittees
- Adopted amendments to the "Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods" and to the "Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)" for worldwide implementation
- Approved its program of work for 2021-2022
- Adopted a draft ECOSOC resolution that was later adopted by the Council at its 2021 session (E/RES/2021/13)



### Recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods



- Ensure harmonization of provisions for safe transport of dangerous goods by all modes (air, sea, rail, road, inland waterways)
- Are implemented worldwide at national and international level
- Take account of the advent of new substances and materials
- Are presented in the form of "Model Regulations" to facilitate enforcement and direct implementation through national and international regulations
- Are updated every two years (last edition published in 2021 to take account of the amendments adopted by the Committee in 2020)

### Recommendations on classification and labelling of chemicals

- Provide internationally agreed criteria for identification of hazards posed by chemicals thus enhancing protection of human life and the environment during their transport handling and use
- Are implemented worldwide at national and international level
- Are suitable for all types of hazardous chemicals (industrial, workplace, household chemicals)
- Are updated every two years (last edition issued in 2021 to take account of the amendments adopted by the Committee in 2020)



### Did you know that...

- Safe transport of COVID-19 vaccines needing to be kept at very low temperatures was possible thanks to the provisions adopted by the Committee applicable to packages containing dry-ice as refrigerant.
- Even if you do not work in the chemical sector, you may use or be exposed to chemicals and articles covered by the work of the Committee in your daily life (e.g. bleaching agents, paints, solvents, lithium cells and batteries (laptops, phones, bikes, cars), gases...)