



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. Its recommendations are implemented worldwide.

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



- During the period 2022-2023:
 - Committee's subsidiary bodies working in the implementing the programme of work approved through ECOSOC resolution E/RES/2023/5.
 - UN specialized agencies and bodies, intergovernmental organizations and national governments worldwide, are working on the implementation of the ECOSOC recommendations contained in resolution E/RES/2023/5
- Next session of the Committee: December 2024

Recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods



- Updating of provisions for the safe transport of electric storage systems (e.g. lithium ion and sodium ion batteries and cells for use in electric vehicles, tools and equipment) and cleaner or alternative low-carbon fuels (e.g. compressed natural gas for combustion engines or hydrogen for fuel cell engines)
- New provisions for the measurement of the pressure volume product of pressure receptacles
- New provisions and test requirements for portable tanks with fibre reinforced plastic service equipment

Recommendations on classification and labelling of chemicals

- Updating provisions to enable classification of hazardous chemicals using alternatives to animal testing
- Further improving information provided in labels of chemical products to better inform and protect workers and users
- Working on the development or improvement of provisions to better address chemicals of concern such as: mutagens, endocrine disruptors, hazardous to the atmospheric system



Did you know that...

Chemicals are present in most of the articles and products we use. Many of these chemicals fall under the scope of the recommendations made by the Committee to protect human health and the environment from their harmful effects and to ensure their safe transport, handling and/or use. These are, to mention only a few: fuels (used as vehicle and machine propellants, combustible for heating); cleaning products (detergents, bleaching agents, disinfectants); paints and solvents; lithium cells and batteries (used in laptops, phones, bikes, vehicles); gases (for medical or industrial use, heating, propellants); aerosols; pesticides, etc.