



SADC GHS BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE SADC GHS WORKSHOP

20-21 January 2011

BACKGROUND

- The African chemical sector has the following economic aspirations; to maintain and create new employment, improve global competitiveness, enhance exports and attract local and foreign investments.
- The Africa chemical sector also recognise the importance of the sound management of chemicals
- The international chemical sector is a large industry that operates in nearly every country in the world. It produces products and services that are used in everyday life and can be found in clothes, food, houses, transport, agriculture, medical and communication products.
- It is projected that world chemical production will increase by 63 % in real terms between 1996 and 2010; with a shift in production and use of the chemicals to non-OECD developing countries.

Background Conti...

- The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), adopted in Johannesburg in 2002, encourages countries to implement the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational by 2008.
- The SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy Objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management adopted in 2006 provides with regard to knowledge and information for the use of the (GHS) and the implementation of the GHS.

Background cont...

- The African Region identified the implementation of the GHS as a priority during their 2006 meeting in Cairo, Egypt and reconfirmed the priority at the African Core group meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in August 2009 and recommended a sub regional approach.
- In addition at the meeting of the SADC Technical Barriers to Trade Stakeholders Committee held on 25 April 2009 in Gaborone, the SADCTBTSC resolved to request SADCSTAN to start work on the harmonization of standards in the area of classification and labelling of chemicals in 2009.
- The SADCTBTSC resolved in April 2009 that a proposal is made to SADCTRLC to develop technical regulations on the classification and labelling of chemicals.
- SADCTRLC agreed to prioritise the development of a SADC technical regulation on the classification and labelling of chemicals also called the SADC GHS.

AIM OF THE WORKSHOP

- The purpose is to put forward a SADC policy proposal for the implementation of common GHS Technical Regulation (s) in SADC based on the SADC GHS Harmonised text which is based on the United Nation GHS also called the first addition of the Purple Book.
- Stakeholder inputs during the January 2011 SADC GHS Workshop as well as national consultation inputs will be used to finalise the policy proposal
- National consultation inputs should be submitted to the SADCTRLC Secretariat by 20 March 2011.

Thank you!



**DRAFT POLICY PROPOSAL FOR THE USE AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBALLY
HARMONISED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND
LABELING OF CHEMICALS (GHS) IN
REGULATIONS FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND
SAFETY AND TRANSPORT IN THE SOUTHERN
AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)**

WHAT IS THE GLOBALLY HARMONISED SYSTEM (GHS)?

- Chemicals, through the different steps from their production, to their handling, transport and use, may be dangerous for human health and the environment.
- Consumers, employers and workers using and handling chemicals in homes and workplace, handling waste, transporting chemicals, dealing with chemical emergency have different languages and alphabets, belong to various social conditions are daily confronted to dangerous products.
- To face this danger, and given the reality of the extensive global trade in chemicals and the need to develop national regulations to ensure their safe use, transport and disposal, it was recognized that an internationally-harmonized approach to classification and labelling (the purple book) would provide the foundation for such regulations.
- Once countries have consistent and appropriate information on the chemicals they import or produce in their own countries, the infrastructure to control chemical exposures and protect people and the environment can be established in a comprehensive manner.

What is the Globally Harmonised GHS?

Cont.....

- The system, which was called "Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)", addresses classification of chemicals by types of hazard and proposes harmonized hazard communication elements, including labels and safety data sheets.
- It aims at ensuring that information on physical hazards and toxicity from chemicals is available in order to enhance the protection of human health and the environment during the handling, transport and use of these chemicals.
- The GHS also provides a basis for harmonization of rules and regulations on chemicals at national, regional and worldwide level, an important factor also for trade facilitation.
- Target audiences for the GHS include consumers, employers and workers using and handling chemicals in the workplace, workers in waste handling facilities, workers in the transport sector and emergency responders.

WHY IS GLOBAL HARMONIZATION NECESSARY?

- Presently, many different countries including different SADC countries have different systems for classification and labelling.
- In addition, several different systems can exist even within the same country.
- This situation has been expensive for governments to regulate and enforce, costly and confusing for companies who have to comply with many different systems, and bewildering for workers who need to understand the hazards of a chemical to work safely.
- GHS promises to deliver several distinct benefits. Among them are; promoting regulatory efficiency, facilitating trade , easing compliance, reducing costs, providing improved, consistent hazard information, encouraging the safe transport, handling and use of chemicals promoting better emergency response to chemical incidents

HISTORY OF GHS

- The Globally Harmonised GHS was developed as a result of Agenda 21 and agreed in 1992 at the Rio Summit. The first edition of the Globally Harmonised GHS, which was intended to serve as the initial basis for the global implementation of the system, was approved by the Committee of Experts at its first session (11-13 December 2002) and published in [2003](#). The first revised edition of the GHS ([GHS Rev.1](#)) was published in 2005 and included the [amendments to the first edition](#) adopted by the Committee of Experts at its second session (10 December 2004). At its third session (14 December 2006), the Committee of Experts adopted a set of [amendments to the first revised edition of the GHS](#), which are included in the [second revised edition of the GHS](#) (published in July 2007).

HISTORY OF GHS

Cont....

- At its fourth session (12 December 2008), the Committee of Experts adopted a [set of amendments to the second revised edition of the GHS](#), which were consolidated in document ST/SG/AC.10/36/Add.3. The [third revised edition of the GHS](#) (published in July 2009) takes into account all these amendments which concern, inter alia: new provisions for the allocation of hazard statements and for the labeling of small packaging; two new sub-categories for respiratory and skin sensitization; the revision of the classification criteria for long-term hazards (chronic toxicity) to the aquatic environment; and a new hazard class for substances and mixtures hazardous to the ozone layer.

SADC GHS HARMONISED TEXT FOR THE CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS IN SADC

- The SADC TBT Annex makes provision for the development of SADC GHS Harmonised text which will be used as national standards and for the use of these standards in national regulations. The aim of the annex is to create a framework in terms of which Southern African Development Community countries can identify, prevent and eliminate unnecessary technical barriers to trade among themselves. The focus of the annex is on harmonising standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures with a view to facilitate and increase trade, health and safety of the public and the protection of the environment.

CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS IN SADC Cont...

- The SADC Cooperation on Standardisation (SADCSTAN) who is tasked with the development of a SADC harmonised text for GHS started in 2008. The SADC harmonised text for GHS is based on the UN GHS purple book edition 1. The SADC harmonised text for GHS will be finalised in December 2011. The SADC harmonised text for GHS however is more user friendly and less complex.
- The approach of referencing a standard as a basis for the regulations is recommended in view of the fact that the standard will be updated as the international UN GHS is amended and thus the regulations will stay up to date. The process of developing a SADC harmonised text is also transparent and decisions are made on the basis of consensus.

SADC GHS HARMONISED TEXT

- The SADC harmonised text covers the harmonized criteria for the classification of hazardous substances and mixtures, including waste, for their safe transport, use at the workplace or in the homes according to their health, environmental and physical hazards. It gives the harmonized communication elements for labelling and safety data sheets.
- The GHS covers all hazardous chemicals. The mode of application of the hazard communication components, for example labels and safety data sheets, may vary by product category or stage in the life cycle.

SADC GHS HARMONISED TEXT Cont...

- The classification and labelling of pharmaceuticals (including stock remedies), food additives, cosmetics, and pesticide residues in food are not covered by this standard in terms of labelling at the point of intentional intake. However, they are covered by the standard where workers might be exposed to them and in transport if the potential exposure warrants.
- The SADC GHS harmonised text includes classification criteria, labelling, packaging and safety data sheet requirements. The SADC GHS harmonised text covers physical, health and environmental hazards.

FRAMEWORK FOR A MODEL NATIONAL GHS REGULATION BASED ON THE SADC GHS HARMONISED TEXT

- A draft model regulation will be developed for application in SADC member countries within their own legal environment.

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- A transitional period for the implementation of the GHS regulation in SADC will be important. The policy proposes that the SADC GHS regulations be implemented in 2013 for substances and in 2015 for mixtures. This will allow time for regulators to final the regulations and industry to prepare for implementation. Although every country is entitled to proceed with implementation at their own pace, a key requirement will be that all SADC countries will start with implementation at the same time.

STATUS OF GHS IMPLEMENTATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

- Member states are requested to update their policy document regarding the status and the future plans of the GHS work.

Way forward

- Member states will consult on the SADC policy proposal in order to provide feedback and input to the SADCTRLC Secretariat by 21 March 2011
- SADCTRLC Secretariat and the SADC GHS working group will finalise the policy proposal based on national inputs by 21 April 2011
- The final policy proposal will be submitted to the Ministers responsible for Trade and Industry, Occupational Health and Safety and Transport through the SADC Secretariat and SADC member states

Way forward cont...

- SADC members states can start national process, including drafting of the regulations guided as per the framework provided in the policy paper, consultations with relevant stakeholders, to develop the national regulations based on the SADC GHS harmonised text and informed by the final SADC policy proposal in May 2011
- SADC members will provide feedback on national progress in May 2012 through their SADCTRLC representative
- Depending on sufficient progress, SADCTRLC will arrange a SADC GHS workshop with government, regulators, industry and other relevant stakeholders to raise awareness to train and prepare for implementation in 2013 for substances and in 2015 for mixtures.

Thank you...