



ZAMBIA BUREAU OF STANDARDS

**REPORT ON THE SADC GLOBALLY HARMONIZED
SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF
CHEMICALS (GHS) WORKING GROUP AND
WORKSHOP**

(18TH – 21ST JANUARY 2011, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA)

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Annexes (which are part of this Report but included separately):

Annex 1: The presentation on the draft SADC GHS Harmonized Text

Annex 2: Presentation on Zambia's GHS Activities

Annex 3: The draft SADC GHS Policy

Annex 4: The Draft SADC GHS Model Regulation

1. INTRODUCTION

The SADC GHS Working Group meeting and Workshop took place from 17th to 18th (Sheraton Hotel) and 20th to 21st (Hotel 224) January 2011 respectively in Pretoria South Africa. The Working Group constituted the SADCTRLC Chairperson Mr. Petros Ndanga (Zimbabwe), SADCTRLC Vice Chairperson Mr. C. Celastine (Seychelles), Dr. Elsabie Steyn and Ms. Naniki Moekesi (SADCTRLC Secretariat – South Africa), Ms. Kopano Bogopa (Botswana Bureau of Standards), Mrs. Belinda Kancheya (Zambia Bureau of Standards) and Mr. A. De L'etourdie (Seychelles Petroleum Company) as an Observer.

The Workshop was attended by representatives from the Labour and Transport Ministries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Zambia was represented by Mr. K. Chivunda (Ministry of Labour and Social Services), Mr. R. Nyundu (Ministry of Communication and Transport), Mr. M. Nkoya (Environmental Council of Zambia), Mr. C. Mtawale (Energy Regulatory Board) and Mr. J. Nkamba (Road Transport and Safety Agency)

2. SADC GHS WORKING GROUP MEETING AND WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE

2.1 The task of the Working Group was to develop documents which would be discussed by the Workshop. The documents included:

- i. The update on the SADC GHS Harmonized Text;
- ii. The draft SADC GHS Policy;
- iii. The draft SADC GHS Model Regulations and;
- iv. The Agenda for the Workshop.

2.2 The main objective of the Workshop was for stakeholders to discuss and endorse draft SADC GHS Policy and Model Regulation which when approved by Member States (after a comprehensive consultative process) would be used within SADC in the implementation of GHS. **The key emphasis of the Policy and Model Regulations would be the referencing of the SADC GHS Harmonized Text in the relevant National regulations of the Member States.**

3. WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The key components of the Workshop included:

- i. Update on the draft SADC GHS Harmonized Text
- ii. Update on the National GHS Activities – Country Presentations
- iii. Presentation and discussion of the draft SADC GHS Policy and Model Regulation.

4. PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT SADC GHS HARMONIZED TEXT

4.1 The presentation on the draft SADC GHS Harmonized Text which was prepared by ZABS and BOBS is presented as *Annex 1*.

4.2 One major concern from the Workshop was that the current reference document SANS 10234 for the draft SADC GHS Harmonized Text was based on the first edition of the UN GHS Document which had since undergone two revisions, with the third revision about to be published in 2011. A recommendation was made to SADCSTAN TC 15 to expedite the process of catching up with the fourth Edition as soon as the Harmonized Text was approved.

5. PRESENTATIONS ON GHS ACTIVITIES WITHIN SADC MEMBER STATES

5.1 Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia representatives made presentations on the current status of GHS activities in their countries. Mr. Max Nkoya (from Environmental Council of Zambia) made the presentation on behalf of Zambia. The presentation by Zambia is included as *Annex 2*.

5.2 Some Member States gave verbal updates while others had prepared documented presentations. Member States with verbal updates were requested to prepare written ones and submit to SADCTRLC Secretariat who would compile all updates and include them in the draft SADC GHS Policy. Only Mauritius, South Africa and Zambia had submitted their updates for inclusion in the draft SADC GHS policy prior to the Workshop.

6. THE DRAFT SADC GHS POLICY

6.1 The draft SADC GHS Policy which had been circulated to all the delegates for comments prior to the Workshop is included as *Annex 3*. The Workshop was divided into four groups which discussed both the draft Policy and Model Regulations.

The Workshop resolved that the document which had been presented was not in the correct format of a Policy. The document had instead been presented as a Policy proposal. To that effect, the document was not adopted and the Workshop appointed four stakeholders (herein called the Expert Group) from Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe to work with the SADC GHS Working Group to redraft the document in the format of a Policy using most of the information contained in the presented Policy proposal. Zambia's Expert Group representative is Mr. Kakoma Chivunda from Ministry of Labour and Social Services.

7. THE DRAFT SADC GHS MODEL REGULATION

7.1 The draft Model Regulation which was presented to the Workshop is included as *Annex 4*. The Model Regulation was also discussed by the four groups. The revised version of the Model Regulation would be circulated to Member States alongside the SADC GHS Policy once finalized by the Expert/Working Group.

7.2 Key recommendations on the Model Regulation included:

- i. Circulation of the SADC TBT Annex (referenced in clause 3.1 of the Draft Model Regulation) by SADCTRLC Secretariat to Workshop Participants so that they are aware of the content.
- ii. Awareness component to be included in the draft Model Regulation.

8. RESOLUTIONS

Having deliberated on the draft SADC GHS Proposed Policy and the draft Model Regulation, the Workshop agreed on the following as the way forward:

- 8.1** The SADC Secretariat to submit a Policy template to SADCTRLC Secretariat by 28th January 2011. The template would serve as a guide to how Policies are presented in the SADC Region.
- 8.2** The SADCTRLC Secretariat to circulate the policy template to the Expert /Working Group by 2nd February 2011.
- 8.3** The Expert/Working Group to submit a draft Policy to SADCTRLC Secretariat within three weeks by 15th February 2011.
- 8.4** The SADCTRLC Secretariat to circulate SADC GHS Policy draft Number 1 to all Workshop Participants for comments for two months. The deadline for comments by Workshop participants would be 15th June 2011. Workshop participants to widely consult National Stakeholders on the draft policy during the comments period.
- 8.5** SADCTRLC Secretariat would then incorporate the comments into the draft Policy and come up with Draft Number 2 which would then be re-circulated to Member States for comments before submission to the relevant Ministers (of Trade, transport and Labour) for their consideration and approval.
- 8.6** The draft policy once developed would provide tentative dates for implementation. Further, SADCTRLC to consider developing an implementation strategy for GHS.

ANNEXES

Annexes which are part of this Report are included as separate copies in the folder for this Report and these are:

- i. Annex 1: The presentation on the draft SADC GHS Harmonized Text
- ii. Annex 2: Presentation on Zambia's GHS Activities
- iii. Annex 3: The draft SADC GHS Policy
- iv. Annex 4: The Draft SADC GHS Model Regulation