

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3024]

Notice of a Public Meeting Regarding Government Activities on International Harmonization of Chemical Classification and Labeling Systems

AGENCY: Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), Department of State.

SUMMARY: This public meeting will provide an update on current activities related to international harmonization since the previous public meeting, conducted January 11, 1999 (See Department of State Public Notice 2955 on pages 1266–1267 of the **Federal Register** of January 8, 1999). The meeting will also offer interested organizations and individuals the opportunity to provide information and views for consideration in the development of United States Government policy positions. For more complete information on the harmonization process, please refer to State Department Public Notice 2526, pages 15951–15957 of the **Federal Register** of April 3, 1997.

The meeting will take place from 10 a.m. until noon on May 27, 1999, in Room N 5437 A–D, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, D.C. Attendees should use the entrance at C and Third Streets NW. To facilitate entry, please have a picture ID available and/or a U.S. Government building pass if applicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to submit written comments or information, please contact Mary Frances Lowe, U.S. Department of State, OES/ENV, Room 4325, 2201 C Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20520. Phone (202) 647–4284, fax (202) 647–5947. A public docket is also available for review at the Department of Labor (OSHA docket H–022H).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of State is announcing a public meeting of the interagency committee concerned with the international harmonization of chemical hazard classification and labeling systems (an effort referred to as the “globally harmonized system” or GHS). The purpose of the meeting is to provide interested groups and individuals with an update on activities since the January 11, 1999, public meeting, a preview of upcoming international meetings, and an opportunity to submit additional information and comments for consideration in developing U.S. Government positions. Representatives

of the following agencies participate in the interagency group: the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

The Agenda of the public meeting will include:

1. Introduction
2. Reports on recent international meetings
- Second meeting of the Inter-Organization Program for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)/International Labour Organisation Working Group on Hazard Communication, January 26–27, 1999, Geneva Switzerland.
- Thirteenth Consultation of Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems, January 28–29, 1999, Geneva Switzerland.
- Third meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Expert Group on Classification Criteria for Mixtures, February 1–3, 1999, Paris France.
3. Preparation for upcoming meetings
- Third meeting of the Inter-Organization Program for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)/International Labour Organisation Working Group on Hazard Communication, June 21–23, 1999, Dublin, Ireland. This group will consider final terms of reference and preparation of a detailed review document describing current hazard communications programs.
- Fourteenth Consultation of the Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems, June 24–25, 1999, Dublin, Ireland. Among other issues, this group will consider long and short terms implementation issues and more detailed terms of reference for an ongoing joint committee on transport of dangerous goods and the GHS and a GHS subcommittee.
- Fourth meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Expert Group on Classification Criteria for Mixtures, June 28–29, 1999, Dublin, Ireland. This group will focus on approaches and options for harmonization of existing systems for classifying chemical mixtures according to their health and environmental hazards.

—UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, July 5–16, 1999, Geneva, Switzerland.

4. Public Comments
5. Concluding Remarks

Interested parties are invited to submit their comments as soon as possible for consideration in the development of U.S. positions and to present their views orally and/or in writing at the public meeting. Participants may address other topics relating to harmonization of chemical classification and labeling systems and are particularly invited to identify issues of concern to specific sectors that may be affected by the GHS. Participants who attended and participated in recent international sessions may also offer their observations on the results of the sessions.

All written comments will be placed in the public docket (OSHA docket H–022H). The docket is open from 10 am until 4 pm, Monday through Friday, and is located at the Department of Labor, Room 2625, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. (Telephone: 202–219–7894; Fax: 202–219–5046). The public may also consult the docket to review previous **Federal Register** notices, comment received, Questions and Answers about the GHS, a response to comments on the April 3, 1997, **Federal Register** notice, and other relevant documents.

Dated: April 2, 1999.

Michael Metelits,

*Director, Office of Environmental Policy,
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs.*

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #3000]

Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law (ACPIL) Study Group on Protection of Incapacitated Adults; Meeting Notice

There will be a public meeting of the Study Group on Incapacitated Adults of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law on Monday, May 3, 1999. The meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the 9th Floor Conference Room, American Bar Association, 740 15th St., NW, Washington, DC 20005.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider legal issues related to the project of the Hague Conference on Private International Law to prepare a

multilateral convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in Respect of the Protection of Adults. The meeting will assist the Department of State prepare the U.S. position for the special diplomatic session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law on September 20–October 2, 1999, which will adopt the final text of the convention.

The Study Group meeting will consider a draft text of the convention prepared at the Hague Special Commission session on Incapacitated Adults, September 3–12, 1997. Comments received will assist the Department of State in formulating comments on the draft text for submission to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference for circulation to all the participating states in advance of the September 1999 diplomatic session, as well as in preparing for the final negotiations.

The draft convention sets up rules for jurisdiction and the law to be applied to proceedings to take measures for the protection of adults who are in some way unable to make appropriate decisions regarding themselves or their property. Such measures include the appointment of guardians with limited or general powers and the execution by an adult of powers of attorney or similar documents to become effective in the event of incapacity. The draft convention sets up the standards for recognition and enforcement by the states parties of the measures of protection undertaken pursuant to the convention. Finally, the draft convention establishes a system of cooperation between national authorities to ensure that appropriate information is exchanged and action taken.

Persons interested in the draft convention or in attending the May 3 Study Group meeting in Washington may request copies of the draft convention and the report of the September 1997 Special Commission session of the Hague Conference. Requests may be sent to Ms. Rosie Gonzales by fax at 202–776–8482, by phone at 202–776–8420 or by email to pildb@his.com. Please include your request, name, phone number, and mailing address.

The Study Group meeting is open to the public up to the capacity of the meeting room. Any person wishing to attend should provide Ms. Gonzales with his or her name to facilitate admission to the building. It would also be helpful to include affiliation, address, telefax and telephone numbers,

and email address for purposes of updating the Department's contact list.

Those unable to attend but wishing to have their views considered by the Department of State may send their views, attention Ms. Gonzales, to the above fax number or email address, or to the following address: Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Private International Law, Suite 203, South Building, 2430 E St., NW, Washington, DC 20037–2800.

Jeffrey D. Kovar,

Assistant Legal Adviser for Private International Law.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #3005]

Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law (ACPIL) Study Group on Judgments; Meeting Notice

There will be a public meeting of the Study Group on Judgments of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law on Friday, May 7, 1999, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM in Room 5951 of the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider legal issues related to the project of the Hague Conference on Private International Law to prepare a multilateral convention on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of foreign civil judgments. The meeting will assist the Department of State prepare the U.S. position for the fourth negotiating session of the Hague Conference's Special Commission on June 7–18, 1999.

The meeting will consider a report prepared by the drafting group of the Hague Special Commission at the third negotiating session in November 1998, which will be before the delegates to the fourth session in June 1999. The drafting committee report includes a preliminary first draft of a limited number of the provisions of a future draft convention. This text does not represent the views of any particular government, but is the first attempt to put into treaty language various approaches discussed so far in the Special Commission to resolving some of the many complex issues posed by a global convention. Included, for example, are draft provisions on jurisdiction in tort, contract, and over branches; provisional and protective measures; recognition and enforcement

of judgments; damages; and concurrent and declining jurisdiction.

The Study Group will also consider other issues that will be before the delegates to the June 1999 session of the Special Commission, including: litigation involving governments or governmental entities as plaintiffs or defendants; the structure and geographic scope of the convention; class actions and multiple defendants; the independence of the court issuing the judgments and the fairness of the proceedings; public policy exception to enforcement; the relationship of the convention to other treaties on the same subject; review or oversight of operation of the convention; and how the convention is to work in countries that are federal states. It is expected that additional texts will emerge from the drafting group at the end of the June 1999 session, including possibly a complete draft convention. Currently, a diplomatic session of the Hague Conference is scheduled for October 2000 to complete and adopt and final text of the convention.

Persons interested in the draft convention or in attending the May 7 Study Group meeting in Washington may request a copy of the report of the drafting committee. Requests may be sent to Ms. Rosie Gonzales by fax at 202–776–8482, by phone at 202–776–8420 or by email to pildb@his.com. Please include your request, name, phone number, and mailing address.

The Study Group meeting is open to the public up to the capacity of the meeting room. As access to the State Department building is controlled, any person wishing to attend should provide Ms. Gonzales with his or her name, social security number, and date of birth by no later than Monday, May 3, to facilitate admission to the building. It would also be helpful to include affiliation, address, telefax and telephone numbers, and email address for purposes of updating the Department's contact list. Participants should be sure to use only the C Street entrance of the State Department, between 21st and 23rd Streets, NW, where someone will be present to assist them.

Those unable to attend but wishing to have their views considered may send their views, attention Ms. Gonzales, to the above fax number or email address, or to the following address: Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Private International Law, Suite 203, South