



**PLANNING OF GESAMP ACTIVITIES:
EVALUATION OF THE HAZARDS OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES
CARRIED BY SHIPS**

Report of the Chair of Working Group 1

1 Since the last meeting of GESAMP, Working Group 1 has met once. The 56th session (EHS 56) was held in London from 8 to 12 April 2019. The full report has been published as EHS 56/9 and circulated as IMO circular PPR.1/Circ.6.

Main use of GESAMP/EHS outputs

2 As outlined in the previous reports to GESAMP, the GESAMP Hazard Profiles (GHP) developed by Working Group 1:

- .1 contain a unique fingerprint for each substance, providing information on fourteen separate human health, environmental and physico-chemical hazard criteria and consist of an alphanumeric notation designed to communicate the hazards;
- .2 are published by IMO annually as the GESAMP Composite List (circulated together with the meeting report as a PPR.1/Circular), which are placed on the IMO website for the use of maritime Administrations, the shipping industry and chemical manufacturers; and
- .3 provide the basis for the pollution categorization of over 900 substances. MARPOL Annex II and the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code) utilise these profiles to determine the pollution category, ship type and carriage conditions for each chemical, for the purposes of bulk carriage in ships.

3 The latest draft version of the Chapter 21 of the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code) makes direct reference to GHP ratings for all carriage conditions including environmental protection, ship safety, and occupational health. The GESAMP Composite List is the only global list of hazard classifications/ratings used for regulating hazardous chemicals on a global scale based on guidance given by the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

Evaluation of substances

4 The main work carried out at the last session concerned the evaluation of substances, as per the usual practice. Data on 3 new substances were evaluated and full GESAMP Hazard Profiles assigned, accordingly. The GESAMP hazard profiles (GHPs) for 12 substances were either modified or reconfirmed, based on consideration of new data.

The revised GESAMP Hazard Evaluation Procedure

5 The Group initiated discussions on possible future amendments to the existing guidance during its 53rd session in 2016, developed first drafts intersessionally and finalized draft texts and rationales during its 54th and the 55th sessions in 2017/2018. Based on the resulting version, the

usual GESAMP scientific review process started in spring 2019. This year, at the 56th session, the Group considered first responses, comments and proposals of the GESAMP reviewers. A number of amendments to the guidance were developed. A final draft version of the Hazard Evaluation Procedure based on the drafting work during EHS 56 and the latest reviews had been prepared by the chairman in May 2019 and was circulated to the members for final consideration and acceptance.

6 The final layout and printing is in progress whilst GESAMP 46 is prepared.

Specific work in preparation of the revised GESAMP Composite List

7 The Group continued its review of flashpoint information for products, extracted from the GISIS database, and agreed to continue the review intersessionally, with a view to completing the work intersessionally for incorporation in the future Composite List in 2020. The next publication of the GESAMP Composite List will be based on the revised GESAMP Hazard Evaluation Procedure including the amended and extended structure. Flashpoint ratings for all chemicals will be presented within the revised column E1. This GESAMP Composite List will be published as usual as an Annex to the report of the next 57th session of Working Group 1 in May 2020.

Specific work based on request by IMO

8 The Group noted the request by IMO on advice with regards to recommended cut-off values to be used when assessing mixtures containing components with a long-term health effect. The Group agreed that the relevant text from the revised Reports and Studies No.64 would form the basis for developing a simplified recommendation for consideration by IMO.

9 The Group noted that IMO through the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 6) had invited GESAMP/EHS to review the guidance contained in the draft IMO circular on *Decisions with regard to the categorization and classification of products* and to consider the possibility of an update of GESAMP Hazard Profile ratings in line with this guidance, for purposes of consistency and harmonization. The Group reviewed the above-mentioned draft circular and also reviewed the draft revised Circ.512 of the Marine Environmental Protection Committee on *Guidelines for the provisional assessment of liquid substances transported in bulk*.

10 The Group agreed to suggest some editorial modifications to the draft circulars. However, in relation to the possibility of an update or amendment of hazard ratings for chemicals in the GESAMP/EHS Composite List, the Group confirmed the basic principle that all GESAMP Hazard ratings are based on a scientific assessment of data. It would not be appropriate to show any GHP ratings in the Composite List based on the regulatory guidance in the draft IMO circular e.g. assigning a B2 (chronic aquatic toxicity) rating based in ratings for acute aquatic toxicity (B1), bioaccumulation (A1) and biodegradation (A2) ratings.

Action requested of GESAMP

11 GESAMP is invited to consider the information provided and to take action as appropriate.