



GESAMP

Joint Group of Experts on the
Scientific Aspects of Marine
Environmental Protection

GESAMP 47/4
17 July 2020
ENGLISH ONLY

47th session
Agenda item 4

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

Report of the Chair of Working Group 1

Introduction

1 Since the last meeting of GESAMP, Working Group 1 has met once. The 57th session (EHS 57) was conducted via a combination of correspondence and virtual plenary sessions due to the COVID-19 restrictions, from 1 April to 8 May 2020, and was chaired by Mr. Richard Luit. The full report has been published as EHS 57/9 and circulated as IMO circular PPR.1/Circ.8.

The revised GESAMP Hazard Evaluation Procedure

2 The revised GESAMP Hazard Evaluation Procedure for Chemicals carried by Ships, which was finalized at EHS 56, had been made available online as GESAMP Reports and Studies No. 102 (available for download at: <http://www.gesamp.org/publications/gesamp-hazard-evaluation-procedure-for-chemicals-carried-by-ships-2019>).

Evaluation of substances

3 The main work carried out at the last session concerned the evaluation of substances, as per the usual practice. Data on 16 new substances were evaluated and full GESAMP Hazard Profiles (GHPs) were assigned for 15 of the 16 substances. The GHPs for two substances were also reviewed, based on consideration of new data, but as the existing data files could not be accessed, it was agreed to keep the provisional re-evaluation in abeyance until the next session.

4 The reason that one substance could not be successfully evaluated was that no data had been provided for one of the main components and the justification for read across was insufficient. No or limited attempts had been made to respond to the general requirements in the existing guidance included in Chapter 3.9 ("Rating by read-across") of GESAMP Reports and Studies No. 102. The Group agreed to consider at a future session whether more explicit guidance for manufacturers on presentation of read-across data to the Group might be helpful.

Refinement of column C3 (acute inhalation toxicity) and reassignment of column E1 from "Tainting of sea food" to "Flammability"

5 In accordance with GESAMP Reports and Studies No. 102, the Group assigned the refined ratings for acute inhalation toxicity by splitting them into C3a (vapour/mist or mist only) and C3b (vapour only and assigned flammability). The Group also assigned flammability ratings in column E1.

6 In this context, the Group was informed that the Secretariat had not been able to modify the supporting database in time to accommodate the split C3 column and the reassignment E1 column in the Composite List at the conclusion of this session. Nonetheless, the Group agreed to record the ratings in the report in order to have them included in a future version of the Composite List once the schema of the database used to generate the Composite List had been modified.

Specific work based on request by IMO

7 Having noted the request for advice by PPR 7 on how to assess mixtures that fell under Pollution Category Y and contained one or more components that were persistent floaters with a viscosity equal to or greater than 50 mPas at 20°C and/or with a melting point equal to or greater than 0°C, the Group agreed to consider the matter at the next physical EHS meeting, as an in-depth in-person discussion would be required.

Membership issues

8 The Group welcomed Dr. Matthias Grote and Dr. Akiko Masuda to their initial session of GESAMP/EHS. Drs Grote and Masuda have been invited to formally join GESAMP/EHS as standing members of the expert group, further to their initial participation at GESAMP/EHS 57.

9 The Group recalled that Dr. Thomas Höfer (Chair of the Group from GESAMP/EHS 51 to GESAMP/EHS 56), had notified the GESAMP Office and the Group of his decision to step down as Chair and to retire from the Group. The Group expressed its appreciation for Dr. Höfer's hard work over a period of 27 years as a member of the Group and recognized his significant contribution and achievements during this period that culminated with the publication of GESAMP Reports and Studies No. 102 during his time as Chair.

10 The Group also noted that after many years of service this would be the last session of Dr. Hotaka Saito and Dr. Patricio H. Rodríguez. The Group expressed its appreciation for the invaluable contribution of Dr. Saito and Dr. Rodríguez to the work of the GESAMP/EHS Working Group and recognized their competence and understanding of the complex subject matter.

Action requested of GESAMP

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