

## **Report on the workshop "Assessment of the national infrastructure for the implementation of the GHS in the Republic of Belarus, updating the National Profile on Chemicals Management"**

December 22, 2022, in accordance with the order of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus dated December 21, 2022 No. 1834, on the basis of the republican unitary enterprise "Scientific and Practical Center for Hygiene" (hereinafter referred to as the SPC Hygiene) at Minsk, st. Akademicheskaya, 8, a seminar "Assessment of the national infrastructure for the implementation of the GHS in the Republic of Belarus, updating the National Profile on Chemicals Management" was held (hereinafter - the seminar).

The expert meeting was organized as part of the United Nations Special Environment Program (UNEP) project "National capacity strengthening for the sound management of chemicals by sustainable implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in the Republic of Belarus (GHS)".

The seminar was attended by 78 people, including employees of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, representatives of institutions exercising state sanitary and epidemiological supervision and representatives of industry, non-governmental organizations.

The workshop was opened with an introductory speech by **director of SPC Hygiene Mr. Serhei Sychyk**, in which he noted the role of the ongoing project for the establishment of a chemical safety system in the country, stimulating capacity building in the field of sound management of chemicals. Mr. Sergey Sychik noted the importance of international cooperation and support to achieve the set goals.

**Ms. Pronina Tatiana, Project Technical Assistant, SPC Hygiene**, presented the goals, objectives and structure of the workshop, expected results.

In the subsequent part of the workshop, health priorities in the field of chemical safety, basic information on the preparation and updating of the National Profile on Chemicals Management in the Republic of Belarus were discussed.

**Ms. Ilyukova Iryna, Project Manager, SPC Hygiene**, presented a report on the international and national policy framework for the sound management of chemicals in the preparation of the National Profile, conditions for updating the profile, a checklist of questions in the preparation.

The report also identified the main national problems in the field of chemical safety, namely the lack of bans on highly hazardous pesticides, the lack of an approved list of highly toxic substances.



It was noted that the main tasks of updating the National Profile are to identify problems in the legislation related to the regulation of chemicals, identify gaps and shortcomings, optimize ways to build up human and technical resources.

Based on the results of the work on the National Profile, a database of chemicals and manufacturers will be presented, plus a database of accredited laboratories in the country.

The report highlighted unresolved regulatory issues, namely:

- lack of prioritization of rational regulation in political processes;
- no national registry of chemicals;
- legal restrictions (no law on chemical safety);
- lack of information resources;
- lack of material resources, finance;
- lack of specialists and training opportunities.

**Ms. Svetlana Petrova, SPC Hygiene**, presented an overview of the National Profile on Chemicals Management in the Republic of Belarus, its structure, a summary of individual chapters, new chapters - on the production, application and registration of plant protection products, mineral fertilizers. The report noted the great work of experts who developed applications and background information on accredited laboratories and ongoing research in the country.

When discussing the draft National Profile on chemicals management in the Republic of Belarus, a report was presented by **Ms. Galina Lisovskaya, SPC Hygiene**, on legislative and self-regulatory mechanisms for chemicals management in the Republic of Belarus and within the framework of regional cooperation of the EAEU. The powers and rights of ministries and departments for managing the circulation of chemicals were presented. Thus, the Ministry of Health and, in particular, the SPC Hygiene is responsible for the creation and maintenance of a register of chemicals and work on the preparation of TR EAEU 041/2017 "On the safety of chemical products", the Ministry of Nature and Environmental Protection is also involved in the national infrastructure for the regulation of chemicals, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Belarusian State Concern for Oil and Chemistry, Ministry of Transport and Communications, State Customs Committee, Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Belarusian Pharmaceutical Industry, Ministry of Economy. A comparative analysis of the role of ministries and departments showed that none of them has separate structures dealing with the circulation of chemicals.

The expert made proposals on the need to develop a law on chemical safety, the creation of a national agency for the regulation of chemicals, the creation of a national poisoning center that meets the requirements of WHO.

**Ms. Tabeleva Natalya, SPC Hygiene**, presented an analysis of the technical regulations of the EAEU governing the circulation of chemical products, their areas of application, basic requirements.

It is noted that the main tasks of technical regulations are the protection of life and health of the population, the environment, the prevention of actions that mislead consumers (that is, the correct classification and labeling).



A list of accredited laboratories conducting research, including on physical and chemical indicators, is presented.

**Ms. Gomolko Tatiana, SPC Hygiene**, presented a report on the regulation of production, import, export and use of chemicals in the Republic of Belarus.

The report characterizes Belarus as a “republic of big chemistry”, on the territory of which the mining and chemical, petrochemical industries are developing, as well as the production of fertilizers, plant protection products, paints and varnishes, perfumes and cosmetics, household chemicals and pharmaceuticals (more than 300 enterprises of the chemical industry, producing products for export and for the country). An analysis of the territorial concentration of industrial enterprises in the Republic of Belarus was carried out.

**Mr. Oleg Shavedro, state industrial supervision of the Ministry of Emergency Situations**, presented the experience of applying the GHS classification and labeling in the transportation of goods, preparedness for chemical accidents.

The report noted that for the purposes of transportation (in the republic, most of the transported products are oil products), the main thing is classification according to physical and chemical properties. At the same time, the Republic of Belarus has adopted the International Agreement on the Carriage of Goods, in which the classification requirements are in accordance with the GHS. Thus, since 2004, the GHS has been applied for dangerous goods in the Republic of Belarus. There are also requirements for the training of persons involved in the transport of dangerous goods, specialized training.

**Natalya Grigorovich, Deputy Chief Engineer for Quality Management, Head of the Quality Service of the Polimir of Naftan OJS**, presented a report on the experience of OJSC “Naftan” in ensuring the safety of workers at their workplaces, high measures to prevent the harmful effects of chemicals. The main risks in production associated with the improper use of personal protective equipment, work in a confined space, movement of people and goods, work in an enclosed space are noted. The enterprise has implemented all the necessary technical regulations, constantly assesses risks, developed emergency cards, developed regulations, labor protection instructions for each process, including instructing visitors, etc., introduced industrial safety passports. Ms. Grigorovich noted that there are difficulties associated with different requirements for classification and labeling for compliance with various regulatory documents.

**Mr. Igor Semenov, Belarusian State Medical University**, spoke about the role of training human resources for the implementation of the GHS. The report noted the obligation of the university to introduce advanced developments in the training of specialists in state sanitary supervision. Curricula are constantly being improved, the study of the GHS for students of preventive medicine has been introduced into the program, actual TNLA, translated acts and manuals are used.

**Ms. Volkova, Belarusian public association "Environmental Initiative"**, presented a report on informing the population about the hazardous properties of chemical products, the role and opportunities of public associations in the implementation of chemical safety at the national level.

The report gives examples of effective work with the population, noted the importance of informing children, which was the most effective tool in disseminating information among the population.

The results of the project on the ratification of the Minamata Convention, the conduct of a national inventory of mercury pollution were presented.

After discussing the proposals of stakeholders on updating the National Profile on Chemicals Management in the Republic of Belarus, the following proposals were made:

1. Add to the National Profile up-to-date information on the transport of dangerous goods provided by a representative of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

2. Supplement information on the role of public associations in informing the population and participating in decision-making.

3. Organize training for specialists in the classification and labeling of the GHS, including classification by physical and chemical properties with the participation of the State Industrial Supervision Ministry of Emergency Situations.

The results of the seminar were summed up by **Ms. Irina Ilyukova**. She thanked all the participants of the seminar and expressed her gratitude for the active participation in making proposals.



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