

	Percent
Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 304106 and for economic injury the number is 969600.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: December 30, 1997.

Bernard Kulik,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 98-739 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2708]

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Notice of Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting regarding Government Activities on International Harmonization of Chemical Classification and Labeling Systems.

SUMMARY: This public meeting will provide an update on current activities related to international harmonization since the previous public meeting, conducted October 17, 1997 (See Department of State Public Notice 2608, on pages 51926-51927 of the **Federal Register** of October 3, 1997.) The meeting will also offer interested organizations and individuals the opportunity to provide information and views for consideration in the development of U.S. 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 am until noon on January 23 in Room N3437 ABC, 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) 736-7111, fax (202) 647-5947.

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 often 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 October 17, 1997, public meeting, a preview of key 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 Services.

The Agenda of the public meeting will include:

1. Introduction
2. Reports on recent international meetings
 - Meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Mixtures Working Group, November 20-21, Ottawa, Canada. The working group conducted its first meeting and outlined a workplan for developing a review of existing classification systems for chemical mixtures.
 - Meeting of the Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (CG/HCCS), November 24-26, 1997, in Ottawa, Canada. The agenda for this meeting included further consideration of the clarification of the scope of the GHS and of the appropriate institutional arrangements for updating and maintaining the system. Papers from the meeting on these subjects are available in the public docket, described below.
 - Meeting of the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, December 8-18, in Geneva, Switzerland. The Subcommittee considered physical hazard classification criteria proposals.
3. Preparation for upcoming meetings.
 - Meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development Advisory Group on Harmonization. This meeting will focus on classification criteria proposals for health and environmental endpoints.

4. Public Comments.

5. Concluding Remarks.

Participants in the meeting may submit written comments as well as speak on topics relating to harmonization of chemical classification and labeling systems. 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, D.C. (Telephone: 202-219-7894; Fax: 202-219-5046). The public may also consult the docket to review previous **Federal Register** notices, comments received, a working "thought starter" document of the CG/HCCS on the scope of the harmonization effort, U.S. government and stakeholder comments on the "thought starter" scope clarification, Questions and Answers about the GHS, and a response to comments on the April 3 **Federal Register** notice.

Dated: January 6, 1998.

Robert J. Ford,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 2710]

Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad; Public Meeting Notice

The Department of State announces a meeting of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad on Friday, January 23, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. in the Loy Henderson room at the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington D.C. The purpose of the meeting will be the presentation of an interim report, prepared by the Committee's sub-groups and including recommendations on religious persecution and conflict resolution, for adoption by the Advisory Committee and presentation to the Secretary of State. Because of the Secretary's rigorous schedule, it has not been possible to provide a full 15 day's advance notice of this meeting.

This meeting is open to members of the public up to the seating capacity of the room. Admittance to the State Department building is only by means